WORLD / A22

Muslims hit
Pope's remarks on Islam

BUSINESS / B1

7-month OFW
remittances up 15.8% to $7B

METRO / A19

10 SPD cops face kidnap
charges for detaining Japanese trader

SATURDAY SPECIAL / F3

Stallone, other top
luminaries line up new starrers

It's a vast junkyard out there, way out there

HOUSTON—IT'S A JUNK-yard out there. Way out there.

Although they don't mean to, astronauts accidentally contribute to the litter in space.

In 1965, the first American spacewalker, Ed White,

IT'S A VAST/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, September 16, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 280 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Atong Ang loses fight against extradition

By Armand N. Nocum

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE IMMINENT extradition from the United States of Charlie "Atong" Ang, a gambling crony of ousted President Estrada, and wants him to testify on the 1999 abduction and murder of Edgardo Bentain, an employee of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

ATONG ANG/ A10

Nicole's ma bares 'offer'

Says prosecutor proposed settlement with accused US soldiers

By Volt Contreras

THE MOTHER OF THE FILipino complainant in the Subic rape case has not only assailed the supposed incompetence of the public prosecutors but also alleged that their leader had "proposed" a settlement with the accused US Marines.

Speaking with reporters a day after she and her daughter "Nicole" walked out of the courtroom of Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon only minutes before the 1 p.m. hearing was to start, the mother claimed that Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos began floating the purported proposal in July and warned that if Nicole's family passed up this option, "your daughter's case might be traded off with the Bolante case *(kung hindi, baka yung kaso ng anak ninyo maging kapalit ng* Bolante case)."

It was a reference to former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, the purported architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, who is now being held in a US detention center.

The mother said De los Santos gave no indication of what this possible "trade" could mean in connection with Bolante's case.

Reached by phone in Biliran, an enraged De los Santos denied having pushed for a settlement.

"It was her (Nicole's mother) who asked me for advice in case there will be a negotiation, what will be its effects," De los Santos said, adding:

"Ngayon binabaligtad niya (Now she's turning it around). That's a lie. They asked for advice and I merely explained the procedure, but that doesn't mean I was pushing for the negotiation."

NICOLE'S MA/ A8

Leftist solons say they're no enemies of the state

By Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora

A LEFTIST CONGRESSMAN YESTERDAY warned military statements branding him and another lawmaker "enemies of the state" would encourage more attacks on militants in the country.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said labeling him and fellow Congressman Satur Ocampo was the "Arroyo government's way of justifying political killings."

He said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's statement "not only sanctions but encourages attacks versus our party."

He called on the Melo Commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into political killings to "immediately censure Esperon for his irresponsible and dangerous remarks."

Statements attributed to retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan had described Ocampo and Casiño as enemies of the state and party-list groups as communist fronts.

Asked during a hearing of the commission if the entire Armed Forces shared that view, Esperon said that while leftist groups like Bayan were not enemies of the state, some of their members belonged to the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, which were enemies of the state.

LEFTIST/ A5

ON THE PENULTIMATE leg of her trip to Europe, Cuba and the United States, President Macapagal-Arroyo arrives in Havana with Philippine Ambassador to Cuba George Reyes (second from right) and is welcomed by Cuban Higher Education Minister Juan Vela Valdés (right) and other Cuban officials at the Jose Marti International Airport. MALACAÑANG/PCPO

GMA in Cuba; meet with Castro eyed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HAVANA, CUBA (VIA PLDT)—AN EBULlient President Macapagal-Arroyo, energized by a successful mission to woo back European investors, arrived here late Thursday (Friday morning in Manila) to attend the 14th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The President was given full military honors, with Cuba's First Vice President Raul Castro—who has temporarily taken over from his sick brother, President Fidel Castro—walking her down the red carpet at the Jose Marti International Airport.

As of press time yesterday, Philippine officials were said to be trying to wangle a visit with the ailing Castro for Ms Arroyo during her 19-hour stay in Havana.

The President is scheduled to fly to Honolulu—the last leg of her five-na-

GMA IN CUBA/ A5

Fishing banned in Guimaras

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HAVANA (via PLDT)—THE WAters around Guimaras and nearby islands are to be declared no fishing zones after President Macapagal-Arroyo heeded the suggestion of the British marine conservation group Coral Cay.

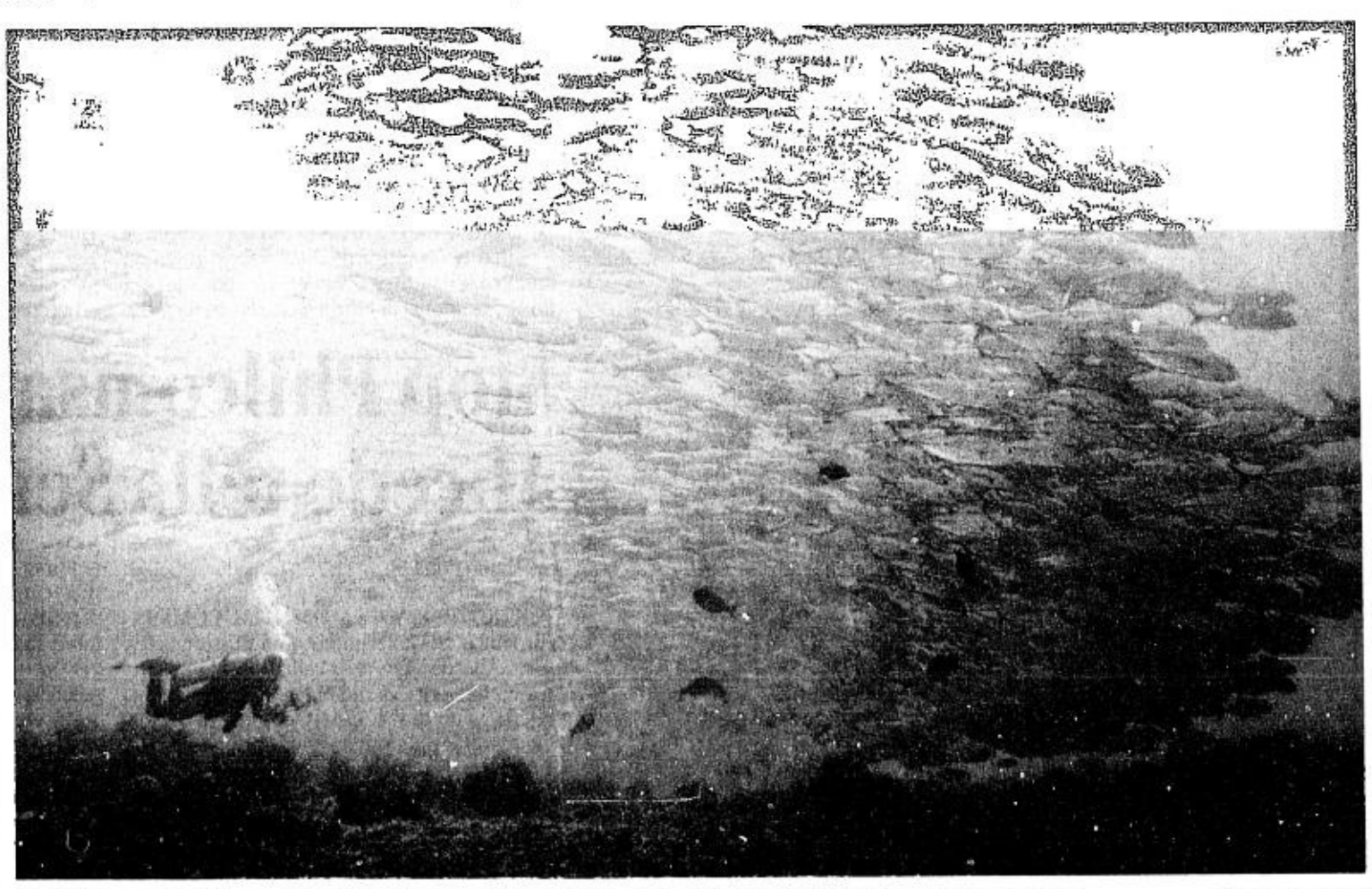
She has also accepted an offer by the Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard, to visit the Philippines in February to make an environmental assessment of Guimaras Island, recently hit by the country's worst oil spill, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters covering Ms Arroyo's trip to Europe and the Americas.

At home, officials of Guimaras filed the first criminal complaints against officers of Petron Corp. and the owner of the sunken tanker Solar I.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava and other Guimaras officials filed the complaint on Thursday against Petron Corp. president Khalid Al-Faddagh and Clemente Cancio, president of the Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. (SMDC), for violating three environmental laws.

Also named respondents were Petron officials Nicasio Alcantara (chair and chief executive officer), Felimon Antiporda (vice president for operations) and Carlos Tan (health safety and environment of-

FISHING/ A10



A DIVER marvels at the sight of a school of jacks swimming freely in the protected depths of the Tubbataha Reef. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tubbataha park area now 3 times bigger

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINES' LARGEST OFFSHORE reef and the only natural marine park in Southeast Asia inscribed in the World Heritage List just got three times bigger.

The 33,200-ha Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park has been expanded to an astounding 96,828 ha and renamed Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1126 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Aug. 23.

The TRNP now includes the 45-ha Jessie Beazley reef located 13 nautical miles north of Tubbataha, which is also within the political jurisdiction of the municipality of Cagayancillo in Palawan. The reef, a favorite among sport divers, is a huge coral pillar rising from the depths to just below the surface of the water. Beneath the small top of the atoll are steep walls which house an incredible array of marine life.

Proclamation No. 1126 reiterated the

TUBBATAHA/ A10

Rape trial postponed while DOJ resolves row

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Armand N. Nocum

THE LEFTMOST FRONT-ROW seats in the courtroom were empty when the trial of four US Marines accused of conspiring to rape a Filipino woman at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1, 2005, resumed yesterday afternoon.

The defense was scheduled to recall its third witness to the stand, but complainant "Nicole," her mother and her staunch supporters were not at their usual seats. They walked out of the courtroom on Thursday, complaining about the purported incompetence of the prosecution panel.

Of the five state prosecutors, Hazel Valdez, Elizabeth Berdal and Nolibien Quiambao showed up, but only to meet Judge Benjamin Pozon and defense lawyers on sidebar and, in light of Nicole's request for the Department of Justice to replace all but one of them, seek the hearing's postponement.

The three promised that the hearing would push through on Monday, at which time, they said, the DOJ would have resolved the issue.

RAPE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Batanes area will experience stormy weather. Rest of Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over western section of Northern Luzon. Rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/15/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Witness to confirm Inquirer story

By Tina G. Santos

JOURNALIST ARLYN DELA CRUZ YESTERDAY disclosed that a witness would soon surface to "confirm" the story she had written about "antiterrorism expert" Sam Macariola.

Macariola reportedly managed to breach airport security and brought bomb components on board a flight from Manila to Davao last Aug. 14.

"From nowhere, one person came out and told his story, confirming everything. I would like to thank him because from the very start he knew about it. But I never called him, I never asked for his help *pero nagsalita siya* (but he spoke up) to confirm the story," Dela Cruz told reporters when she presented herself to the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday morning.

However, Dela Cruz, who was accompanied by her husband and lawyer Fortunato Pagdanganan, did not name the witness, but claimed he was a member of the media.

"I don't want to mention his name; I want to protect him, *marangal siyang kasama sa hanapbuhay* (he's an honorable man to work with)," she added.

Bureau investigators believe that should the witness testify, his statements would be vital as it would corroborate Dela Cruz's claim that Macariola had shown her a video of how he was able to get the explosive and its components past security personnel and how he assembled it on the plane.

Dela Cruz talked to officials of the NBI Special Task Force yesterday but she has yet to submit a formal statement on Tuesday, particularly on what happened before, during and after her interview with Macariola.

Arnel Dalumpines, executive officer of NBI STF, said they would issue another subpoena requiring Macariola to submit the "training video" which he supposedly showed to Dela Cruz.

Dalumpines added that they would also ask the aviation officers to submit a copy of the tape taken by their security camera on Aug. 14.

The NBI said they had already summoned Daniel Cruz, a longtime friend of Dela Cruz through whom she met Macariola, to shed light on the issue.

Cruz was expected to appear at the NBI on Monday.

Security personnel

In an earlier article she had written for the INQUIRER, Dela Cruz mentioned that Cruz was a source, who, in the past, had given her exclusive leads on stories not normally released to the media.

Apart from Dela Cruz, five aviation security personnel—identified as Charity Gasmin, Trinidad Musayak and Norberto Santiago, both X-ray machine operators and Crisanto Lazaro and Roly Diaz, both friskers—also presented themselves to the NBI yesterday.

They were accompanied by lawyer Raleston Falcutila and Chief Insp. Roger Reallo, head of the domestic airport terminal police station.

Macariola supposedly got past the five aviation security personnel who were on duty last Aug. 14, the day Macariola reportedly carried out the "test."

No jacket

However, the five aviation security personnel claimed they did not notice or detect Macariola carrying anything unusual.

Reallo said a closed-circuit television (CCTV) showed that Macariola boarded the 3:40 a.m. Manila to Davao flight.

Macariola surrendered the 9 mm he was carrying, passed through standard security checks which included the X-ray machines and frisking, Reallo said.

He added that Macariola was not wearing a jacket, as claimed by Dela Cruz in her story. "He was wearing a striped polo shirt and he was carrying a backpack."

Reallo also stressed that their security machines were 100 percent accurate.

Concern for country

Meanwhile, Dela Cruz said she was standing by her story.

"It was not my intention to bring the country down ... That was not the intention of the INQUIRER. I believe that was not the intention of Sam," Dela Cruz said.

She added that she wrote the story because she was impressed with Macariola's "concern for the country."

"He wanted the recommendations [that he gave after the 'test' was conducted] to be implemented. He was quite disturbed that he got past security, he wanted to correct the [situation] that's what I saw in him," Dela Cruz said.

Stay strong, Gonzales advice to PCGG head

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

HAVANA (via PLDT)—THE FIRST Cabinet official of the Arroyo administration at the receiving end of the Senate's wrath for non-cooperation in legislative probes has this advice for Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio: "Stay strong."

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said he called up Sabio two days ago when he heard the news that the Senate ordered the latter's detention for failing to appear at a hearing.

"I told him to fight and continue. I believe that he is on the right side of this. Knowing the characters behind I think it is more grandstanding than anything at the expense of a public official who is quietly serving the public," said Gonzales.

Gonzales described Sabio as "a model of uprightness and righteousness in giving public service, really spotless."

Gonzales, who was also detained by the Senate last year after he refused to name the financiers of a contract he had entered into with a US lobby firm to get American funding for President Macapagal-Arroyo's plans to amend the Constitution, said the latest assault by the Senate on a Cabinet official showed the "level of arrogance of some senators.

"I don't know what the Senate is trying to do with Camilo," Gonzales said."You do not get the truth by coercing people and by showing to other human beings that you are superior."

He said that while he was mostly confined in a hospital suite at the Philippine Heart Center during his detention, Gonzales said that "being confined is the same just like President Erap saying that I might be in a golden cage but I' m still in a cage.

He branded the Senate's action as a form of "torture" to assert their superiority. "It's not the kind of leadership that our nation deserves. I think our people should truly examine the behavior of some of our senators. I hope this practice ends."

HABEAS CORPUS CASE

Senate to field Joker in SC fight

By Juliet labog-javellana and TJ Burgonio

IN ITS LATEST BATTLE IN THE SUPREME Court, the Senate will again field its legal eagle Sen. Joker Arroyo to fight the defiant position of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Arroyo will champion the cause of the Senate despite his being identified by PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio as the one who drafted the executive order of President Corazon Aquino prohibiting the PCGG commissioners and its staff from appearing in any judicial, legislative and administrative proceedings.

Arroyo, executive secretary of Aquino, represented the Senate in its successful fight against President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order 464 prohibiting officials from testifying in legislative inquiries without her permission.

The SC granted Sabio's petition for habeas corpus and ordered the Senate to produce Sabio, who has been arrested and held in detention by the Senate, on Sept. 21.

"We're going to give first crack to Joker. It's his call," Senate President Manuel Villar said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

Villar said he informed Arroyo about this assignment but Arroyo has yet to confirm his acceptance.

At press time, Arroyo could not be contacted for comment.

Villar said Arroyo's having drafted Aquino's Executive Order 1 should not be an issue, adding this even places him in a better position to argue the unconstitutionality of the immunity provision.

"He is the one who knows the issue very well," Villar said.

But Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises, said the Senate was going to get a private counsel to argue its position before the high court.

Gordon's committee is investigating the "anomalous losses" of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. and the Philcomsat Holdings Corp.

It was Gordon's committee that ordered the arrest of Sabio, four other PCGG commissioners and Philcomsat officials for repeatedly snubbing its invitations. Only Sabio has been arrested so far.

Gordon said some senators were of the opinion that none of them should appear as lawyer of the Senate before the SC. The appearance of Arroyo in arguing against EO 464 was "by tolerance" of the senators. Gordon said. But he said it was up to Villar to make the decision.

Gordon said the Senate position—that the cloak of immunity on the PCGG was unconstitutional and undemocratic—was "cut and dried" for Arroyo to argue.

In Thursday's hearing, where a defiant Sabio engaged Gordon and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile in a shouting match, the 70-year-old PCGG chair invoked EO 1 in justifying his refusal to submit to the Senate and answer the senators' questions on the alleged misuse of assets of sequestered corporations.

Sabio said Arroyo, then Aquino's executive secretary, has admitted he drafted EO 1 because he anticipated that some personalities who could be charged for the ill-gotten wealth cases could "later on become members of the Senate and they could, through the use of the power to investigate in aid of legislation, hamper and deter the efforts of the PCGG" in its recovery efforts.

Sabio also put Enrile, Sen. Franklin Drilon and Sen. Edgardo Angara on the spot. He said Enrile was one of those accused before the PCGG, while Drilon and Angara belonged to the law firm which represented Cocofed in the coco levy cases.

"At least the three, they are now in the Senate and therefore they could hamper—if they wish—the investigation. I do not wish to mention these things but I am compelled to, much to my regret," Sabio said.

Villar and Gordon expressed confidence the SC would again uphold the power of the Senate to compel officials to appear in its legislative inquiries.

"I am confident that we will win this case," Villar said, saying the high court has always respected the independence of its co-equal branch.

Villar stood by the committee investigation, saying he does not agree with Sabio's position that he and his fellow commissioners are not accountable to legislative inquiries.

"For 20 years, this agency has claimed it cannot be touched by any of the three branches of government," Gordon said.

Regarding the hunt for other PCGG officers, Senate sergeant-at-arms retired Gen. Jose Balajadia said he would request the help of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation in catching the elusive fugitive-commissioners and Philcomsat officials.

"If they are out of town and our resources are lacking, we will ask the help of the PNP and the NBI in serving the warrant," Balajdia said.

A senator told the INQUIRER that the Senate was having difficulties getting the cooperation of the PNP in serving the warrant for the PCGG and Philcomsat officials.

"We used to get the full cooperation of the police. Now all we get is very minimal cooperation. We are doing it solo," the senator said.

Balajadia also warned officials or civilians protecting the PCGG commissioners, saying the Senate would also go after them.

"If there is a warrant of arrest and you try to evade it, you are a fugitive. And if you help the fugitive (hide from the law), you can be charged with harboring a fugitive," Balajadia said.

Asked if President Macapagal-Arroyo could be considered as harboring a fugitive because Benito Araneta, board chair of the Philcomsat Holdings Corp., is part of her delegation in her 9-day foreign trip, Balajadia responded that Araneta was already out of the country when the Senate issued the warrant.

Stop Philcomsat probe, Abcede tells Senate

By Alcuin Papa

CONTROVERSIAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMISsion on Good Government Commissioner Ricardo Abcede yesterday called on the Senate to stop hearings on the Philcomsat issue, saying it was up to the Supreme Court to decide whether there should be any hearings or not.

"The hearings should not be held for now until the Supreme Court resolved the issue of whether we can answer the inquiries or not. If they insist, we (PCGG officials) will still be constrained to invoke EO 1. Then we will just be going around in circles. My request is to wait for the SC decision," Abcede said.

In a phone interview, Abcede also said senators should withdraw the arrest warrants against him and other PCGG commissioners and to release PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio from detention.

If the Supreme Court decides that the PCGG officials must testify, then Abcede said "then we will appear and answer any questions and under any conditions that the courts will stipulate."

Abcede, PCGG Commissioner for Asset Management, added that if the Senate really wanted to get to the bottom of the Philcomsat issue, it should dig up court records on around 55 Philcomsat cases.

"Chairman Sabio is right. These matters are pending in court. These are public records. All the Senate needs to do is to get the court records, they can do that. Maybe they are just interested in grandstanding. If they want to get to the truth, they can get the court records," Abcede said.

Answering questions from the Senate, he said, would reveal "carefully guarded secrets and documents" being held by the PCGG and which they needed to use in the court cases related to the Philcomsat issue.

"If these (Philcomsat) documents are revealed, it could set a bad precedent and our other cases will be open to scrutiny. How about our legal strategy? How about the documents that we can spring in other cases? These will be all be compromised. Our opponents have good lawyers. That is the reason we are preserving our right," he explained.

The usually combatant Abcede also backed off from adding more fuel to his word war with Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

"All I am asking from him is to be fair, reasonable, and less emotional about this issue. Let us do our job," he said.

Nonetheless, Abcede said he would continue to ignore the arrest warrant issued against him by the Senate. "Ok, I'm hiding. The senators want to detain me? Let them find me."

Trillanes can run but behind bars, says military

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

NAVY. ANTONIO TRILLANES IV, leader of the "Magdalo" rebel soldiers, will be campaigning behind bars, should he decide to run for the Senate next year, the military said yesterday.

The military grappled with the implications of having the prominent leader of the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny run for public office, given that he and 97 other junior officers ware undergoing general court-martial.

A spokesperson said while Trillanes had the right to resign from the service to run for office, he would surely remain detained with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

"We will still have jurisdiction over him. He will remain in detention," said Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, chief of the Armed Forces public information office.

On Thursday, a lawyer said Trillanes was "seriously considering" running for the Senate. He was urged by colleagues who have grown frustrated with the lack of progress in their cases.

"Some of his colleagues think this may be a good forum for them to continue their fight for reforms in the military and to improve the lot of the Filipino people. There have also been a number of representatives from political parties inviting him (to their slate)," said lawyer Reynaldo Robles.

Robles said Trillanes and his fellow Magdalo officers were still hopeful they would be absolved of the cases against them and reintegrated in the military.

"This is a major decision for a career military officer like him. He's trained to be a soldier. But he said that if the situation demands this of him, he will not have second thoughts about giving up his career. He's making the sacrifice," he added.

Robles, however, stressed that Trillanes had not made up his mind, since running for office meant he would have to give up his military career for good.

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the law would say whether or not Trillanes is qualified to run for office.

"There is no stopping anybody from stopping anybody from seeking an elective position but we have to face up to the legal requirements," Ermita said, in reaction to an INQUIRER report that Trillanes was seriously considering to run in the 2007 senatorial race.

"Since he (Trillanes) is charged, as a layman I can only think maybe he might not be qualified," Ermita told reporters in a phone patch interview. *Christine O. Avendaño*

Security pullout sparks uproar

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines recently recalled all military personnel detailed as security escorts of politicians, including those of former President Corazon Aquino.

The pullout of Mrs. Aquino's security detail sparked immediate criticism from the House minority, which accused the Arroyo administration of playing a "dangerous political game" that may put at risk the life of the former head of state.

"It's politically-motivated," charged House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano in a phone interview. Mrs. Aquino—hailed as an icon of democracy worldwide—was informed of the pullout of her security detail in a letter from the AFP in August.

A spokesperson of the Armed Forces, however, said they never had any intention to pull out former president Aquino's security detail. It was a misunderstanding, said Maj. Gen. Jose Honrado, who admitted that there was some confusion in the implementation of an order to recall military security escorts of some VIPs for training and review.

"Mrs. Aquino never lost her security detail. I'll be the first to get worried if this happens," assured General Honrado, who once served as Ms Aquino's aide. The assignment of Mrs. Aquino's present security aide, Sgt. Nemesio Lacson, has already been renewed, he was quick to assure.

He said the Armed Forces is currently reviewing the deployment of military personnel as security escorts of top officials, lawmakers, retired generals and other public personalities.

"We are trying to account for our personnel," Honrado said.

Aquino's son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III, had earlier told reporters that his mother's five-man security detail in 1992 had dwindled to one soldier in recent months, "and even this last, single soldier was taken away."

He said the former president had already written Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz about the security pullout. "But until now we have not received any reply," Rep. Aquino lamented.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed the recent pullout of detailed security forces but assured that those entitled to them would get replacements. He aired the view that security details for public personalities should come from the police force.

Ermita said they wanted to "rationalize the setup." He denied that the move was aimed against their political enemies.

Under the law, those entitled to a security detail are former presidents, former first ladies, the incumbent Senate President and House Speaker, and the chairs of the Senate and House defense committees.

But some senators, congressmen, retired generals and private individuals have asked for the same privilege over the years.

After this pullout and review, some public officials will have to renew their request for detail.

Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Pazzibugan

Detained captain allowed to answer coup raps

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AN ARMY CAPTAIN WHO HAS been languishing in solitary confinement for five months now was finally allowed to leave his detention cell yesterday to submit his reply to charges of attempted mutiny before the Judge Advocate General's Office in Camp Aguinaldo.

Capt. Dante Langkit of the elite First Scout Ranger Regiment, who was implicated in the Feb. 24 coup plot, has been in detention in an Army facility since his arrest five months ago.

In his counter-affidavit yesterday, Langkit denied any knowledge of the so-called "Oplan Gemstone," which the military claimed to be a plan by rebel Scout Ranger officers to assault Fort Bonifacio last February.

Langkit has lost considerable weight since he was presented to the media last April 5 after he was arrested by military authorities in Quezon City.

Langkit was immediately whisked away by six military escorts, four of whom were in plainclothes, to a waiting van to avoid the media.

Langkit however was able to slip a note to a reporter, quoting a biblical verse: "For you can not do anything against the truth, but only for the sake of it."

He has been detained at the Intelligence Security Group (ISG) compound in Fort Bonifacio with some of the "Magdalo" rebel officers.

"He's in a pig pen," Langkit's twin brother Dancel told reporters about his living conditions for the last five months.

He described Langkit's cell as two by three meters wide, with the toilet right inside the room. Langkit sleeps and eats in that room which is almost shut, and has very little ventilation.

Langkit is barely given time to sun himself and to exercise, according to Dancel.

"He said it's an unbearable place. He said he never expected he'll be treated like this," said Dancel.

Langkit's family is only allowed to see him for just an hour on Saturdays and Sundays. "He's always hungry when we see him," Dancel said.

He said his brother was never informed of the charges against him until last month when he was brought to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal for the pre-trial investigation of Scout Ranger officers led by former commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

Langkit, however, had no lawyer at the time.

His lawyer Melvin Panlilio said they are planning to ask the Army to transfer Langkit to Camp Capinpin to join Lim and other Scout Rangers similarly linked to the Feb. 24 coup plot.

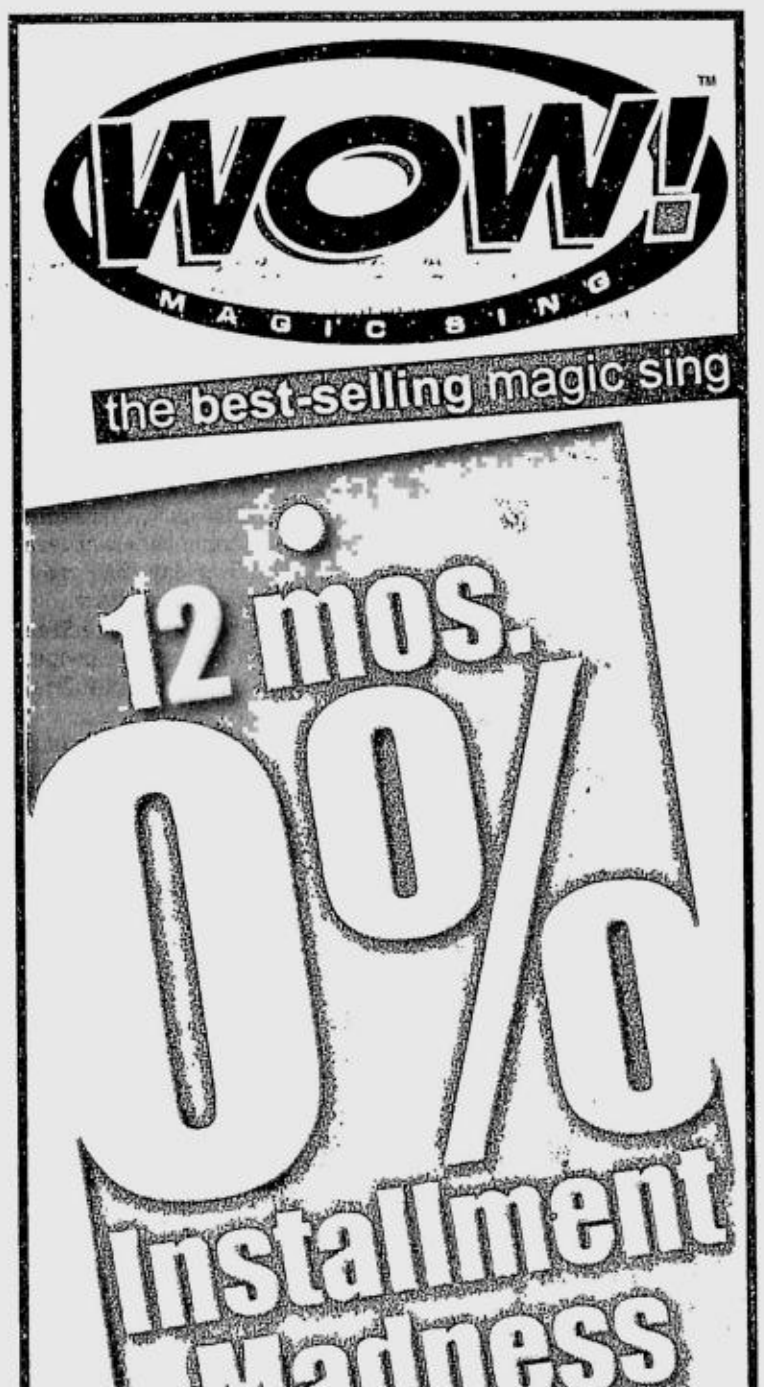
"We're still studying our options," Panlilio said.

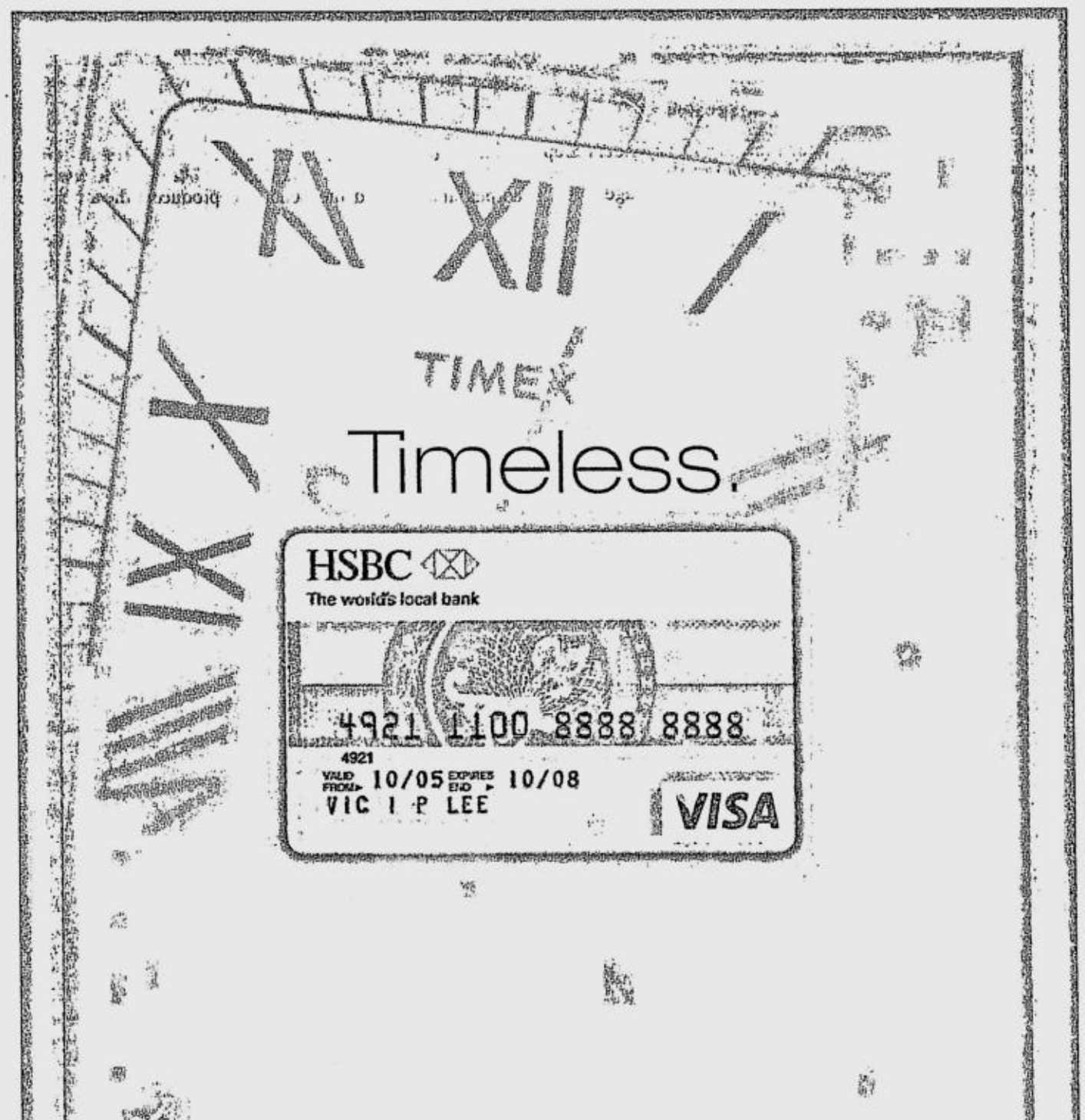
According to the military, Langkit went absent without official leave [Awol] last Jan. 17 when four Oakwood mutineers escaped from an Army detention facility.

He was arrested last April 2 outside Max's Restaurant along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

Langkit was not among the 20 Army officers led by Lim who were originally recommended for court-martial in connection with the February coup attempt. But his name was later included.

Langkit is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '95.





Imelda pleads not guilty to another corruption case

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA Marcos on Thursday pleaded "not-guilty" plea to a 13-year old graft case filed against her before the Sandiganbayan.

The widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was arraigned for her alleged violation of the prohibition against having any financial interest in a company while holding government positions.

"The former first lady came here on Thursday and pleaded not guilty before the court's fifth division," said a court official. Imelda was accompanied by her lawyer, who asked the court two weeks ago to allow her to travel to Hong Kong.

"The arraignment was a court requirement for her to travel, but she has to post a P630,000 bond before she could be allowed to fly to Hong Kong for medical treatment."

On Sept. 1, the antigraft court stopped Imelda from going to Hong Kong because prosecutors discovered she was only arraigned in 10 of 11 criminal cases. She has to be formally charged before the court can consider an application to go overseas.

But her lawyers maintained that she had already been arraigned for the case on June 3, 1993 and argued that the record of her arraignment may have just been lost in the court records.

The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division favored the prosecution's petition to disallow Marcos' travel abroad for a medical treatment because of the absence of any record of her arraignment and her withdrawal of the travel bond she gave the court.

Despite going through arraignment on Thursday, Marcos remains barred from foreign travel in the absence of a travel bond.

Marcos had earlier been allowed to make the trip but she decided to defer her travel. She opted to withdraw her P630,000 travel bond and donated it to the victims of the landslide in Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town in Leyte in February.

With Reuters report

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Naia reopens domestic Runway 13/31

By Nikko Dizon

THE DOMESTIC RUNWAY OF the Ninoy Aquino International Airport resumed operations yesterday after undergoing five months of repairs and upgrading.

Vice President Noli de Castro led the ceremonies to formally reopen Runway 13/31.

The first aircraft to take off from the runway at 11:40 a.m. was Cebu Pacific flight 5J 963 bound for Davao.

The re-opening of Runway 13/31 is expected to ease the traffic congestion in the international Runway 06/24 and reduce flight delays.

Since repair work on the domestic runway started last April, domestic flights have been using the international runway.

The Manila International Airport Authority said it had to undertake the repair of the domestic runway to keep it within the global standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The Icao recommends that runway rehabilitation be done every five to 10 years. Repairs on the Runway 13/31 were last made in 1996.

After the ceremonies, De Castro and other officials—Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura, and Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi—proceeded to Naia's Terminal 3 to inspect the facility's ceiling whose collapse is said to be one of the factors that is delaying the facility's opening.

VICE President Noli de Castro leads Friday's reopening rites of the Manila Domestic terminal runway. JESS YUSON

De Castro said the terminal would be fully operational by the first quarter of 2007.

President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted the terminal fully operational by December in anticipation of increased tourist arrivals but rehabilitation work on some sections would not make this possible, he said.

De Castro said the government already paid P3 billion to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the consortium that built Naia 3.

He said he hoped that there would be no more incidents to delay the opening of the terminal.

"This should have opened a long time ago. But then something collapsed inside. Then the International Chamber of Commerce arbitration court came into the picture. But things are clearer now. We have been allowed [by the Court of Appeals] to pay the P3 billion, so I think it will be all systems go," he said in Filipino.

Piatco, whose contract for Naia 3, was voided by the government, brought its suit for just compensation to the Singapore-based ICC which ruled that the government cannot take over the facility without paying just compensation.

The P3 billion is what the Pasay court hearing the Naia 3 expropriation case has ordered the government to pay Piatco as initial payment before it can issue a writ of possession.

De Castro believes the adverse publicity surrounding the legal battle to operate the terminal has not diminished foreign investor interest in the Philippines.

Capt. Felipe Timola, Cebu Pacific safety director, said in a statement that the airline can now regain its 95 percent on-time performance with the re-opening of Runway 13/31.

Cebu Pacific's on-time performance dropped to between 65 percent and 70 percent when the domestic runway was closed.

The Miaa said the upgraded runway would allow the landing and takeoff of Cebu Pacific's new aircraft, the Airbus 319 and Airbus 320, as well as serve as taxiway for bigger aircraft like the Boeing 747 series once Naia 3 opens. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Gov't urged to set stringent rules for Naia 3 auction

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS yesterday urged the Arroyo administration to draw up more stringent rules to ensure a trouble-free auction of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal III by next year.

Representatives Monico Puentevella and Federico Sandoval II, chair and vice chair respectively of the House committee on transportation, said the government should learn its lessons from the controversial contract with the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), which the Supreme Court canceled due to irregularities.

Let's be more careful this time," the lawmakers said.

Puentevella and Sandoval issued the call after Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said on Thursday that government will bid out Naia 3 by the end of the year or the first quarter of 2007 to recover the money it spent in expropriating the facility, including an extra $6 million to fund additional work and structural repairs.

Warned Puentevella: "Government cannot afford another bungled deal."

The Supreme Court ruled that the Piatco contract violated public policy and provisions of the build-operate-transfer law.

"Government officials should be careful to avoid the legal problems, that delayed the opening of the Naia 3. The modern air terminal, he said, was "a very important facility and a show window of the country to the world."

"There is no doubt a lot of parties will be interested to participate in the bidding and operate it," Puentevella said.

"There should be no haste in the public bidding. We should study well the bidding procedures and terms to ensure everything will be above board and government interest will be well-protected," he said.

He said that while government needs to open the facility "at the soonest possible time, the best interest of the country must not be sacrificed."

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD FOR CUSTOMS BROKERS

PROGRAM OF THE CUSTOMS BROKERS LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 11, & 12 IN THE CITIES OF MANILA & CEBU
DEADLINE OF FILING OF APPLICATION IN MANILA IS SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

DATE AND TIME		SUBJECTS	WEIGHT
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006			
7:00 AM	7:45 AM	GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND FILLING UP OF FORMS	
8:00 AM	11:00 AM	CUSTOMS PROCEDURES & PRACTICES	20%
1:00 PM	4:00 PM	CUSTOMS LAWS (Marine Warehousing, Seizures, Surcharges, etc.)	20%
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006			
8:00 AM	11:00 AM	CUSTOMS LAW (Surveyor and Other Laws enforced by the Bureau of Customs)	20%
1:00 PM	4:00 PM	TARIFF LAW (Administrative Provisions on Tariff Laws, Rules and Regulations on Tariff)	20%
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2006			
8:00 AM	11:00 AM	TARIFF LAW PART I - Practical Problems on Classification (Open Book/s) PART II - Computation of Duties, etc. (Close Book/s)	20%

NOTE: PLEASE ANSWER FIRST PART I - TARIFF LAW: PRACTICAL PROBLEMS ON CLASSIFICATIONS, THEN SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE THEREOF TOGETHER WITH YOUR BOOK/S. ONCE YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE ON PART I, YOU CAN NO LONGER GET BACK AND GO OVER THE SAID PART. GET YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PART II - TARIFF LAW: COMPUTATION OF DUTIES, ETC., PROCEED ANSWERING IT. THEREAFTER, SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER SHEET WITH THE PART II QUESTIONNAIRE.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Your school/building assignment will be posted at the PRC premises two to three working days before examination. Bring your NOTICE OF ADMISSION when you verify your school/building assignment. Visit your school/building assignment prior to the day of the examination.

2. Report to the school/building assignment before 6:30 am. on the first day of examination to verify your room and seat number. Be punctual, late examinees will not be admitted. Examination Fee of ABSENT examinees will be forfeited.

3. Examinees are required to wear the following attire every examination day:

Male examinees -
White polo shirts or t-shirts with collar, tucked-in
Female examinees -
White blouses or t-shirts with collar

4. Bring the following on examination day:

a. Notice of Admission
b. Applicant's Stub
c. Official Receipt
d. One (1) piece metered-stamped Window Mailing Envelope
e. Two or more pencils (No. 2)
f. Ballpen with **BLANK INK ONLY**
g. One (1) piece Long Brown Envelope
h. One (1) piece Long Transparent (non-colored) Plastic Envelope (for keeping your valuables and other allowed items)

5. The following are **PROHIBITED** inside the examination premises/rooms.

a. Books except those for use in Tariff Law: Practical Problems on Classification and notes, review materials, other printed materials containing coded data/information/formula.
b. PROGRAMMABLE CALCULATORS
c. **CELLULAR PHONES**, beepers, portable computers or similar gadgets/devices.
d. Bags of any kind (ladies bag and shoulder bags, attache case, backpacks, etc.)
e. Other examination aids not stated on this program.

NOTE: PRC WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROHIBITED ITEMS THAT WILL BE LOST.

6. Read carefully and follow the instructions on your Notice of Admission and Examinees Kit.

7. **"NO OPEN BOOKS IN ALL SUBJECTS" except in Tariff Law: Practical Problems on Classification.**

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ATENEO GRADUATE EQUALS

GMA in Cuba; meet with Castro eyed

From page A1

tion, 13-day trip to Europe and the Americas that started with the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki—for the centennial celebration of the arrival of the first Filipinos in Hawaii.

Cuba is this year hosting the three-day summit of NAM heads of states and governments, at which 118 countries are represented.

The summit has been abuzz with speculation that Castro, who cherishes the international spotlight, might show up at the meetings despite his ill health.

The NAM, an organization of states which consider themselves not formally aligned with or against any power bloc, initially convened in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, at the height of the Cold War in 1961.

Subsequent conferences, which involved the increasing participation of developing countries, featured widespread condemnation of Western colonialism and the retention of foreign military installations. In recent years, the NAM's focus has shifted away from essentially political issues to the advocacy of solutions to global economic and other problems.

The NAM is meeting this week as the US is pushing for sanctions against Iran, which has ignored an Aug. 31 United Nations deadline to stop enriching uranium.

Castro has been vocal in supporting Tehran which also received support from the meeting. NAM leaders are expected to adopt a statement stressing Iran's right to acquire and use nuclear energy and technology for peaceful means.

The United States has faced some sharp verbal attacks at the Havana meeting. Several of the speakers insisted that though the bipolar world that created the NAM had disappeared, the organization remained relevant as a tool for developing nations to counter US global might.

Because of its "special relationship" with the United States, the Philippines was not admitted as a member until after the US bases were expelled during the administration of President Aquino in 1992.

According to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, the President will explicate on the three pillars of her foreign policy—economic diplomacy, political diplomacy and promotion of the welfare and well-being of the Filipino people—in her meetings with other leaders at the NAM, including fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Among the initiatives that Ms Arroyo is expected to present are: an interfaith dialogue for peace and development in solving terrorism, the adoption of a migrant workers' initiative for the protection of some 8 million overseas Filipino workers, and a debt initiative to lower debt payments of low- and middle-income developing nations to free up their money for education, health and the environment.

The President came to Cuba fresh from a series of fruitful meetings with European political and business leaders.

In her visit to Finland, Belgium and the United Kingdom, she was able to convince Europe's leaders that she was sincere about wanting to solve the killings of leftist activists and journalists in the Philippines by agreeing to an investigation by independent European bodies, including the UK-based Amnesty International.

In London, the President met British business leaders at the Asia House seminar on Business Process Outsourcing in which she said that the Philippines was ready for business with the imminent opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 and the country's continued rise as the preferred site for call centers and other high-value BPO services.

She said she was confident that the resolution of the three-way ownership dispute over Naia 3 between the government, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. and its German shareholder, Fraport, should revive confidence in the country among European investors who have questioned the Philippines' seemingly flexible rules of business.

In her speech at the Asia House conference, the President said: "The new Manila international airport is a vital national asset that must be turned at long last to productive use."

She assured her audience that Fraport would be fully compensated.

Leftist solons say they're no enemies . . .

From page A1

Ocampo called Esperon's statement "Goebellian propaganda"—a reference to Joseph Goebells, the propaganda minister of German dictator Adolf Hitler.

Ocampo, a House deputy minority leader, said it was "unseemly" for the Melo Commission to call officers of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police as its first witnesses in light of allegations linking security forces to the killing of more than 300 political militants since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001.

Ocampo said the commission's process created an impression that it would do what the Arroyo administration wanted—"to exculpate it of accountability for the killings."

Killing fields

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, who is accompanying Ms Arroyo in her current foreign trip, said there had been too much emphasis on claims about alleged government culpability in the killings and added that "bringing international watchers into the country would put the spotlight on everybody."

Ms Arroyo has invited groups from the United Nations and Europe, including Amnesty International, to join in a probe into the killings.

"The visit of these international bodies will indirectly open up the cases of killing fields. These grave sites are a mix of old and new bodies, as fresh as one year ago," Gonzales said.

Ghosts of the past

"What we have investigated, so far, showed that only 36 percent of the killings were done by the communists and we have strong reason to believe that the rest was done by some military and policemen, organized crime, and local politicians taking advantage of the undue attention given to the government for these killings."

Gonzales added: "This is a good opportunity not only to lay down the ghosts of the past but also to set the record straight. We are in a way bringing back the dead to life because this is the only way to find the truth, to confront the matter totally and frontally."

He noted that the issue of killing fields had always been set aside in the past because the rebels did not want the matter included in the peace negotiations.

Early Gonzales verdict

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the investigation would be transparent and independent, adding: "Sunshine is a great disinfectant."

Even before the AI and other European nongovernment organizations could step on Philippine soil to start their inquiry, Gonzales already declared the government as guilt-free.

"We are not liable. The government will only be responsible if we make this official government policy and it is not," he said.

Aside from AI, the European Commission and some of its member countries—Spain, Belgium and Finland—have agreed to send their own teams to look into the Philippine human rights scene.

International courts

Gonzales hopes that these teams will also provide forensic expertise to establish identities, time and cause of death.

After establishing enough evidence, Gonzales said the government would be prepared to file cases against the perpetrators, to the extent of prosecuting them in international courts.

Police data obtained by the INQUIRER yesterday appeared to give a different picture of the killings.

According to the data, for every five militant activists murdered, one of them was killed by fellow leftists in the NPA.

In a Sept. 12 update intended for the Melo Commission, the PNP's Task Force Usig said that 23 of 111 cases of activists' killings were linked to the CPP and the NPA.

In one aspect of its report that may be consistent with the findings of the human rights group Karapatan, the task force recorded a pattern of increasing incidence of killings of leftist activists from 2001 to 2006.

Still, the task force said it found no evidence of a government policy to kill leftist elements or the political opposition.

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It's a vast junkyard . . .

From page A1

lost a spare glove when he went outside for the first time. From that time on, astronauts have accidentally added some of the more unusual items to the 100,000 pieces of space trash that circle Earth.

Last July, spacewalker Piers Sellers sheepishly reported that he lost a spatula. Nicknamed "spatsat" by space junk watchers, it returns to Earth in a fireball early next month.

This week the Atlantis astronauts made their own contributions to the space debris in low orbit: a couple of bolts that escaped from the addition they were connecting to the international space station.

To engineers, this is not funny. Many of those pieces of space junk can kill astronauts, puncture satellites or at the very least scratch up expensive space shuttle windows.

"It's a problem that is growing in seriousness," said William Ailor, director of the Center for Orbital and Reentry Debris Studies at the Aerospace Corp. in Los Angeles. "It's really the small things that will get you."

Using radar and telescope sensors, Nasa and the Air Force track objects bigger than about 4 inches (10.2 cm). The official "box score" of space debris that size as of Thursday was 9,925. But the 90,000 objects smaller than that can be just as dangerous, zipping around Earth at more than 15,000 mph (24,135 kph). They are just harder to track.

Nasa has seen debris hits of dried-up urine, toothpaste, and shaving cream—all from space shuttle waste dumps—in an experiment placed outside of the Russian space station Mir, according to officials at the Nasa orbital debris program lab. An Indonesian satellite was struck by urine and fecal matter. Now Nasa doesn't dump human waste outside much anymore.

Of all the items followed by the Air Force, the more unusual ones were those "that aren't necessarily meant to drop," said Air Force Space Protection Officer David Ward of the First Space Control Squadron in Cheyenne Mountain. "The astronauts didn't necessarily mean to let go of the bolts the last couple days, but that happens."

So when spacewalkers venture outside, Nasa makes sure everything is tethered—tools, bolts, the astronauts themselves.

"You worry about [losing tools] all the time," said former astronaut and spacewalker Jay Apt, noting that he never lost anything.

And well they should worry.

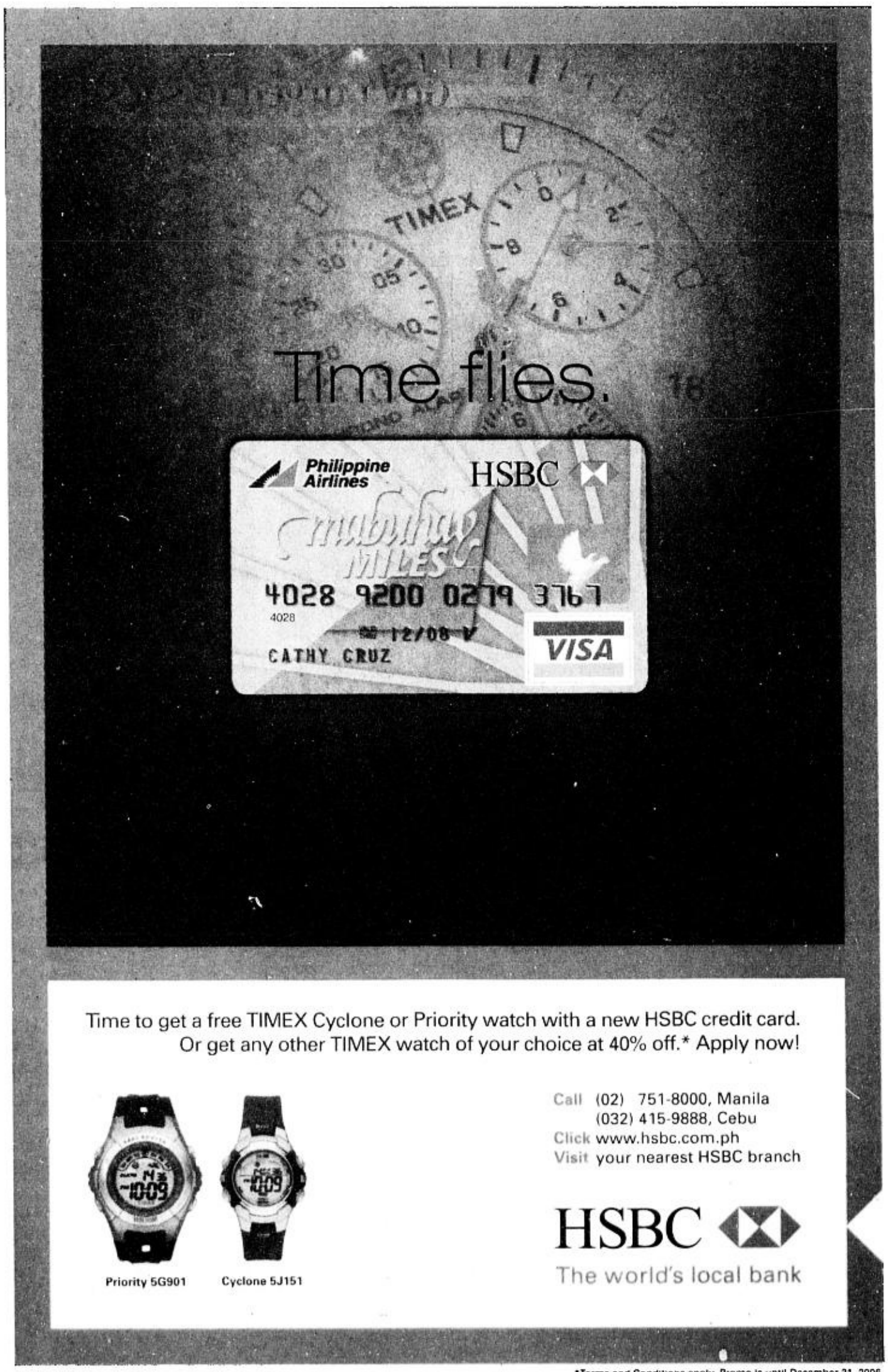
Not only can space junk damage or kill, you can get sued, too. There are lawyers who monitor space junk because there is a complex legal treaty about who is responsible when man-made debris cripples a satellite worth hundreds of millions of dollars, according to Mark Matney, a scientist in the orbital debris program at Johnson Space Center.

In the 1960s, America launched bunches of copper needles into Earth's orbit in an ill-conceived plan for post-nuclear war communications, Matney said. Many of those needles were still up there. Other purposely jettisoned space junk once included bags of trash thrown overboard from the Russian space station Mir and pieces of equipment pitched into orbit from spacewalkers fixing the Hubble Space Telescope.

"I guess it's a junkyard; most of the problems are little things that cause dings, like your car, I guess," Matney said. Even an object the size of a medicine tablet "will do a significant amount of damage to most spacecraft."

And there are much bigger objects to worry about, including giant rocket bodies from launches dating back more than 40 years.

Ask Matney what the biggest piece of space junk in orbit now is and he quickly says it is the international space station. The astronauts living aboard the orbiting lab may not think of it as junk, but to Matney "every spacecraft is destined to become debris." *AP*



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Oil firms cut anew prices of gasoline, diesel by 50c/liter

WITH WORLD OIL PRICES CONtinuing to drop, oil firms again reduced prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene products by 50 centavos a liter yesterday.

First to announce price reductions were oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and the independent Flying V at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

They were followed at 6 a.m. by Petron, Chevron Phil., Seaoil Petroleum and Unioil Petroleum Phil.

Total Phil. and Eastern Petroleum adjusted their prices at noon yesterday.

According to Department of Energy data, the regional benchmark Dubai crude dropped to a September average of $62.71 a barrel, from $68.93 a barrel last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products plunged to an average of $67.50 a barrel in the first 14 days of the month, from the August average of $81.61 a barrel.

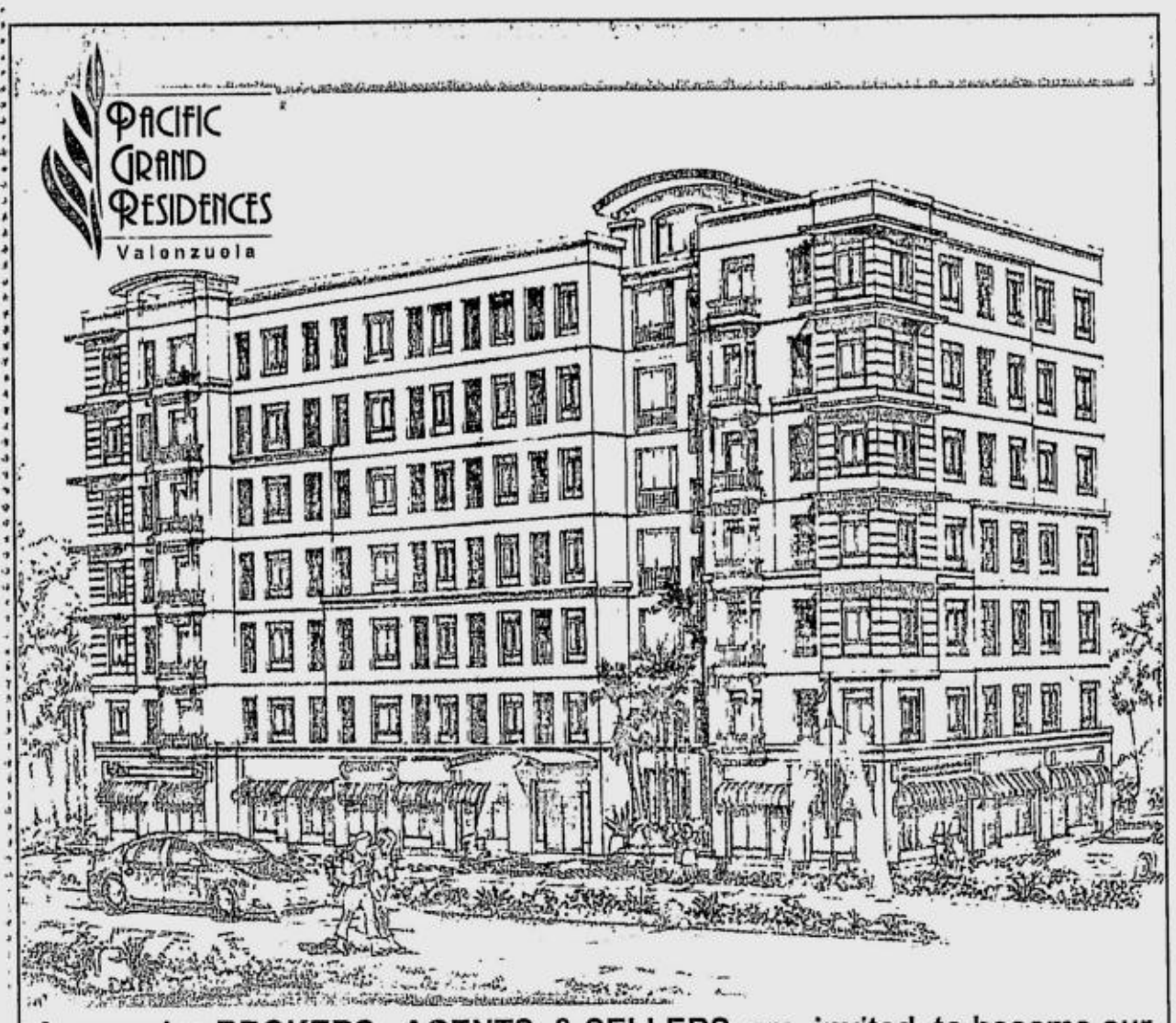
MOPS-based diesel fell to an average $81.51 a barrel during the Sept. 1 to 14 period, from the $87.37-a-barrel average posted last month.

Since the start of 2006, the oil companies have raised gasoline prices 18 times by a total of P9 a liter. Diesel prices rose 15 times by a total of P7.50 a liter, while kerosene prices increased 19 times by a total of P9.50 a liter.

Recently, however, they have announced four price reductions in as many weeks as international oil prices continue to soften.

Yesterday's rollback brought premium unleaded gasoline prices down to between P39.74 and P42.16 a liter, diesel to between P34.34 and P36.46 a liter, and kerosene to between P37.69 and P42.50 a liter.

All prices are inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax. *Abigail L. Ho*



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Manila to host 7th Asia-Pacific manning, training conference

THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT MANning event, the 7th Asia-Pacific Manning and Training Conference, will again be held in Manila from Nov. 8 to 9, 2006.

Organized by the UK-based conference specialists, Lloyd's List events, the conference will focus on the rapidly emerging concept of "Corporate Social Responsibility" in relation to crew welfare and sustainable shipping practices.

To be held at the Hotel Philippine Plaza, participants can register at 44(0)20 70175511 or on-line at www.manningandtraining.com.

"Philippine participants will find this year's event even more relevant with its revised format, topical debate and increased local participation," Lloyd's List events conference producer Caroline Holt noted.

"As in previous conferences, Filipino participants will be accorded special rates," she added.

The revised format will feature a pre-conference seminar on "Quality Assured Maritime Health Services in the Philippines" to be conducted by International Committee on Seafarers Welfare (ICSW) regional coordinator Dr. Suresh Idnani and ICSW ship project coordinator Dr. Rob Verbist.

"Healthy seafarers build a healthy company and ultimately improve profits. This conference provides a great opportunity to present a health promotion initiative like the ICSW Seafarers' Health Information Program to the maritime industry," Dr. Verbist remarked.

Delegates will also benefit from the presence of 25 world industry leaders who will analyze and review issues affecting the manning of ships and crew training.

One such speaker is Professor Capt. Stephen J. Cross, Director of the Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz Terschelling West in the Netherlands, who will discuss the latest developments in maritime training and education.

"New training and educational formats are replacing the old, boring, irrelevant subjects and curricula that have created barriers to young people joining the industry. How these new formats are changing the way seafarers are trained will be revealed at the conference," Capt Cross said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 16, 2006
23rd Week in Ordinary Time
Cornelius and Cyprian

1st Reading: 1 Cor 10:14-22
Gospel: Luke 6:43-49

Jesus said to the crowd, "No healthy tree bears bad fruit, no poor tree bears good fruit. And each tree is known by the fruit it bears: you don't gather figs from thorns, or grapes from brambles. Similarly the good person draws good things from the good stored in the heart, and an evil person draws evil things from the evil stored in the heart. For the mouth speaks from the fullness of the heart.

Why do you call me: 'Lord! Lord!' and not do what I say? I will show you what the one who comes to me and listens to my words and acts accordingly, is like. That one is like the builder who dug deep and laid the foundations of his house on rock. The river overflowed and the stream dashed against the house, but could not carry it off because the house had been well built.

But the one who listens and does not act, is like a man who built his house on the ground without a foundation. The flood burst against it, and the house fell at once: and what a terrible disaster that was!"

Commentary

We feed upon the bread/body and the cup/blood of Christ that makes us all one in his own Spirit. And we are not to anger the Spirit of God, given to us in baptism, confirmation and eucharist, by our actions and those of our communities. Are we sound or rotten trees? Do we draw goodness from our lives, fruit for others to feed and feast upon? What fills our hearts? Do we glibly call Jesus "Lord" yet do not obey? Are we shallow believers, without foundation, substance and practice? This is a good examination of conscience using Jesus' own words.

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DepEd head, teachers engage in webcam chat

A WEBCAM CHAT CONFERENCE WAS PART of the opening-day activities of the recently concluded ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in Basic Education Congress held in Cebu City.

Taking a step further the Department of Education's challenge of upgrading ICT resources for teacher training and classroom use, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus went online and took part in the webcam chat conference with partner schools of Smart Communications Inc.

The participating schools were from Ilocos Norte (Ilocos Norte National High School), Mountain Province (Sagada NHS), Central Luzon (Olongapo City NHS), Cebu (Science and Technology Education Center, Doong NHS, Puertobello NHS, Lusaran NHS, and Paril NHS), Zamboanga (Ayala NHS, Zamboanga City NHS) and Basilan (Basilan NHS).

They are all part of the Smart Schools Program, Smart's flagship community service initiative in the field of education.

Under the program, public high schools are given networked computer equipment and peripherals along with a one-year free Internet connection.

Teachers are also provided technology training and access to online resources through the Smart Schools' website (www.smartschools.ph).

Launched in December 2004, the Smart Schools program now counts 100 public high schools nationwide as partners. It is being implemented with the support of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, DepEd, and Microsoft Philippines Partners in Learning.

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WHEN: Sunday, November 26, 2006, 7:30 a.m.
WHERE: Test Centers in UP Diliman
UP Cebu (Cebu City), U.P. Mindanao
(Davao Ciy) and U.P. Baguio

Application forms are available at Rooms 115 and 211 Malcolm Hall, UP College of Law Diliman, Quezon City or visit our website http://law.upd.edu.ph

Last day of Filing:
November 17, 2006 (Without fine)
November 24, 2006 (With fine)

Anyone planning to enter U.P. College of Law, who has finished or is finishing at least a bachelor's degree in the arts or sciences from a recognized college or university, is qualified to take the examination upon prior application and proper identification and registration. Applicants with yearly gross family income of P100,000.00 or less are exempted from payment of testing fee.

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Nicole's ma bares 'offer'

From page A1

The mother was combative, but she later dissolved in tears during an hourlong meeting with a group of reporters at a restaurant in Quezon City in the early hours yesterday.

Back on the stand

Nicole, her private lawyer Evalyn Ursua, and her therapist Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez were present at the meeting.

The mother also said the lead prosecutor in the landmark case had wanted to put Nicole back on the stand, for her to tell the court that "she wants out, she's already tired, and that her lawyer can't do anything about it."

Nicole completed her testimony in July.

The mother said she decided to go public only now—or about two months later—about De los Santos' purported moves after another public prosecutor, Nolibien Quiambao, came "unprepared" for her cross-examination last Monday of the principal accused, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

"I observed the public prosecutors first ... and my daughter and I went sleepless for many nights this whole time," the mother said in Filipino.

She said Quiambao's performance in court on Monday got her "worried" because it "pieced together" what De los Santos had supposedly told her.

"*Nilaro niya kami* (She toyed with us)," she said, referring to De los Santos.

Fertile imagination

As to the rape case's supposed link to the outcome of the Bolante case, De los Santos was emphatic and let drop a few invectives before saying: "I don't know where they got that; they have a fertile [imagination].

"In the first place, I would be at my craziest to claim having anything to do with the Bolante case. It's not even at my level [in the Department of Justice].

"I may not be a darling of the press, but nobody can question my credibility in my 13 years in the service. I may be *mataray* (shrewish), but I'm not a liar."

De los Santos also all but confirmed the long-rumored rift between the public prosecution panel and Ursua, Nicole's private lawyer, whom the prosecutor described as a "militant."

"We all know Ursua is behind all this," she said in Filipino.

She hinted at a full-blown showdown when she returns to work on Monday: "They will get it from me when I come back."

De los Santos, who said she was in Biliran attending the wake for her slain *kumpadre*, former Gov. Danilo Parilla, also questioned the timing of the outburst from Nicole's mother.

She said it was tantamount to "blackmail" and a breach of the confidentiality of lawyer-client communications.

De los Santos was not at the courtroom on Thursday when Nicole and her mother walked out of the Makati City Regional Court's Branch 139.

Late Thursday night, Nicole—with her mother, Ursua and Lopez—called a press conference in Quezon City to report that she had sent a letter to the DOJ seeking the replacement of all her public prosecutors except Hazel Valdez.

She said the letter had been ready the night before.

Lull in the hearing

Nicole's mother likewise claimed that:

- De los Santos also approached Nicole's elder brother about the "settlement."
- De los Santos mentioned the Bolante case during a lull in the hearing where supposed prosecution witness Timoteo Soriano, the driver of the van where the purported rape took place, did not show up. (That hearing was on July 17, or 10 days after Bolante's arrest in Los Angeles.)
- De los Santos said the families of the accused US Marines had agreed to a settlement and that Nicole's mother should say "what you want in writing."
- According to De los Santos, Nicole and her siblings could also choose to withdraw from the public eye by going to the United States.
- The plan was to have Nicole telling the court she wanted out, preferably before the defense could begin its presentation of evidence.

De los Santos parried all these almost point by point, reiterating that she and Nicole's mother had exchanges about a possible settlement only because the latter had "asked for advice, and I was explaining the procedure."

"If they wanted to negotiate, then they have to put it in writing ... and Nicole has to take the stand again to say that she's desisting. What's wrong with that? That's procedure," the prosecutor said.

'For the Filipinos'

Nicole's mother was running the family-owned canteen in the Army's Southern Command camp in Zamboanga City when her daughter, while vacationing with two siblings at the Subic Bay Freeport, was allegedly raped by Smith on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

She has been a civilian supervisor for 25 years in the Philippine Navy where Nicole's father, now deceased, was an officer. She has since remarried.

In yesterday's interview, while saying that it was up to Nicole to pursue the trial and that both she and her daughter were "still very much interested" in the case, she pointed out that winning it was "no longer just for us but for the Filipinos."

"Where is our government now?" she cried. "We were given public prosecutors, but you wouldn't know where their loyalty is."

The 'cross': Here's why Nicole thinks prosecutor is sloppy

By Volt Contreras

SMITH

WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THE cross-examination of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith that so displeased the Filipino complainant in the Subic rape case?

As "Nicole" confided to reporters on Thursday, she felt that "not enough questions were asked" of the US Marine who allegedly raped her.

For one, she said, after all the interest generated by the case in the last 10 months, Smith's cross-examination as conducted by public prosecutor Nolibien Quiambao was over in less than two hours.

Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon himself noted that Quiambao's early line of questioning merely made Smith repeat or confirm certain statements he had made during his direct examination.

Pozon had to ask the lawyer at that point if he was really conducting a "cross."

But later, one question from Quiambao jolted even longtime courtroom spectators for its bluntness.

"Did you come?" he asked the accused Marine, who replied that he did not "because there was no time" and the van suddenly came to a stop then.

Inconsistencies

Quiambao tried to corner Smith for inconsistencies between his court testimony and the statements he gave the US Naval Criminal Investigation Service two days after the alleged rape on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

For example, while Smith said he only drank one beer at the Neptune Club where he met Nicole, an NCIS report stated that he had up to five bottles of beer that night.

The report, Quiambao noted, also stated that his co-accused "cheered him on" as he was having sex with Nicole. Smith said the phrase was not his but that of the NCIS agent who had interviewed him.

"That's a misquote," the soldier said, adding that no cheering went on in the van. He said there was "normal drunken laughter, but nothing directed at us (himself and Nicole)."

Smith claimed that the NCIS agent misquoted him several times in the report. He said that upon his lawyer's advice, he did not call the attention of the officer concerned because anyway he would soon testify on the "truth."

Additional questions

But a sign that not everyone in the prosecution was pleased with Quiambao's performance surfaced after he announced that he was done with Smith.

Evalyn Ursua, Nicole's private lawyer, rose to ask the judge if she could ask "additional questions."

(Ursua told the INQUIRER yesterday that Nicole had wanted her to ask the questions.)

The defense panel posed strong objection, citing the rules of court.

Francisco Rodrigo, lawyer for Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, remarked that Ursua's move was a virtual "slap" on the public prosecutors because it meant that she found Quiambao's cross-examination "deficient, if not defective."

Ursua "could just have fed her questions" to Quiambao, Rodrigo said.

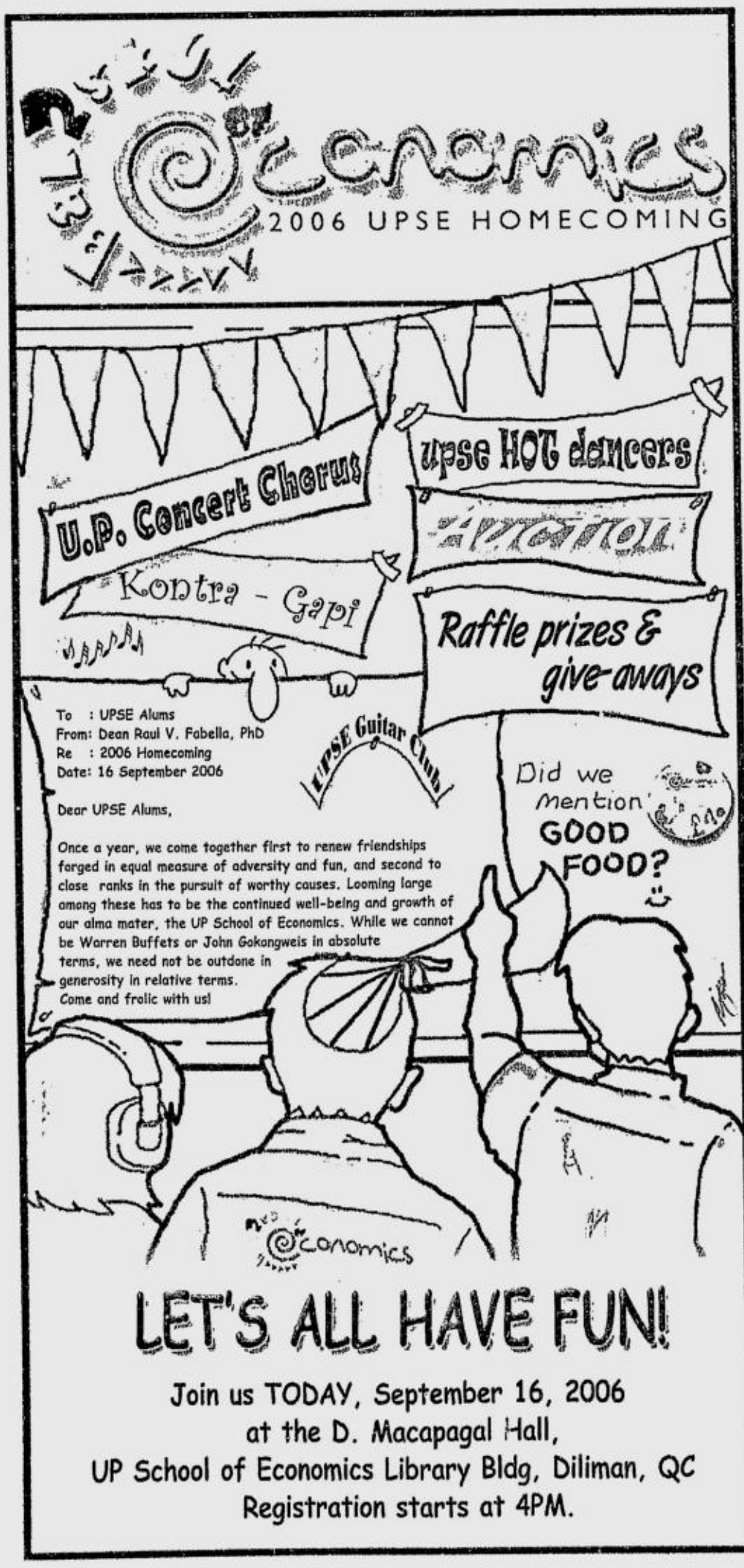
After a recess, Judge Pozon eventually allowed the additional questions Ursua wanted asked, but still with Quiambao as the cross-examiner.

'Not theatrical'

Reached by phone yesterday, Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos maintained that she was satisfied with Quiambao's handling of Smith.

"He's not theatrical," De los Santos conceded, but said "we were able to prove that Smith was lying."

"Smith claimed he was misquoted by the NCIS on portions not favorable to him. He said he did not even know about the NCIS [until he was accused]," De los Santos said, adding that it was hard to believe a US Marine would be totally ignorant of the NCIS.



Rape trial postponed while DOJ resolves row

From page A1

With no objection posed by the defense, Pozon granted the request.

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez assailed Nicole for complaining about the performance of the prosecution panel, saying that as in the purported rape, she could again be "imagining things."

Gonzalez told the INQUIRER that he was satisfied with the way the state prosecutors were handling the case.

"That statement is unfair; she's imagining things, I hope she is not imagining [the rape] again. Who is she to judge the competence or incompetence of my prosecutors? We have given her all the support," he said.

"It's a very sweeping indictment against these prosecutors who are actually doing their best," he added.

From the start, Gonzalez had expressed disbelief of Nicole's claim of rape. At one time, he even told reporters that she might withdraw her complaint against the four US Marines.

No official notice

Valdez told reporters that the issue had to be "threshed out first" before the hearing could resume.

"In the first place, we have to verify if there really is a request for [our replacement] because we were not officially notified about that. We will await the decision of the secretary of justice," she said.

Berdal said the prosecution panel chair, Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos, was to speak with Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño about the complainant's "serious allegations."

Valdez said the panel was to meet yesterday afternoon or Monday morning to settle the matter before the hearing resumes.

The defense was scheduled to call to the stand Dr. Teresita Sanchez, an obstetrician-gynecologist who qualified as an expert witness during the Thursday hearing.

Sympathy

Defense lawyers expressed not only confidence that the prosecution's problem would not affect their case, but also sympathy for their courtroom rivals.

"We agreed with their request [for postponement] because we understand their situation," said Jose Justiniano. "Why would [the complainant] doubt the [public prosecutors'] competence with no basis?"

Justiniano denied that the prosecution was in collusion with the defense to lose the case. He said the complainant would not claim such a conspiracy if she were confident about winning the case and of the evidence presented against the accused.

"[Public prosecutors] have a sworn duty, and they will not do that. What basis do [the complainant and her mother] have to say that the public prosecutors are siding with us when you've seen how hard we debate in the courtroom, how we raise our voices at each other?" Justiniano said.

"Now, if their basis is our handshakes, chats and laughter after the hearing, then they shouldn't base it on that. If lawyers fight it out in the courtroom, we are friends outside the court," he said.

Hurt

The prosecutors said they learned of Nicole's complaint only through media reports.

The feeling of hurt was apparent on their faces and in their words.

"We are wondering why she (Nicole) didn't raise it [earlier] because, perhaps, we would have already bungled during the presentation [of evidence]," said Valdez, the only prosecutor whom Nicole wants retained.

The state panel, along with Nicole's private lawyer, took 11 weeks to present some 23 witnesses on the stand to prove the complainant's claim of rape against Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier.

Nicole had herself taken the witness stand to testify that Smith forced himself on her as his three co-accused egged him on while on board a moving van.

"In fact, after every hearing [Nicole and her mother] approached us and thanked us ... Now they are saying a different thing," Berdal said.

Asked if Nicole's allegations would affect the panel's commitment to the case, Valdez said: "No. We have been professional all this time and we will be, up to the end. We owe it to the people of the Philippines."

Berdal expressed the same resolve: "We will not abandon our duties as the prosecution. In fact, we are representing the people, and not just one person."

Asked if she would stay if the DOJ decided to retain her and replaced the rest of the panel, Valdez said: "I work at the behest of the secretary of justice."

She also said Nicole apologized to her shortly after walking out of the courtroom on Thursday.

Evaluation

Gonzalez vowed to "defend my prosecutors" but said he would also penalize them for their mistakes.

He said he would study Nicole's letter to Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño where she asked that her public prosecutors be replaced because she had lost confidence in them.

"I have not received her complaint. [When I do], I will evaluate it. And if it is reasonable, I will grant it," he said.

But Gonzalez warned that the replacement of the state prosecutors would delay the hearings and affect the one-year timetable for the case's completion.

"The clock will continue to tick even if there is no hearing because the delay happened on account of the prosecution," he said, adding:

"She (Nicole) should understand that if there are no prosecutors, the case will stop.

"Private prosecutors cannot proceed with the trial without the public prosecutors because under the law, all criminal prosecutions should be under the direct control of [the latter].

"I don't want any party dictating on this department, but we will accommodate any reasonable request."

Next week

Gonzalez said the new panel of prosecutors could be in place next week.

"I assure everyone that ... if I find [the request] reasonable, we will constitute a panel. But there should be no delay because ... the case will continue to run and any delay will be attributed to the party causing the delay. This kind of delay will run in favor of the Americans because the origin of the delay was the complainant," he said.

CBCP scores gov't policy on migration

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERence of the Philippines has expressed concern over the government's policy of promoting Filipinos' migration which has resulted in "brain drain" and numerous other problems.

The CBCP's Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (ECMI) and participants in its international consultation on the plight of overseas Filipino workers recommended that the government address the real causes of the exodus, which are poverty and unemployment.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of the 5th International Consultation Meeting on the Filipino Ministry Worldwide, the participants that included Filipino chaplains and pastoral workers from various countries noted that the Catholic Church does not encourage or promote migration.

CBCP president Angel Lagdameo, for his part, said the continued export of Filipino workers have given rise to numerous problems experienced by the overseas Filipino workers and their families.

"We are exporting not only housekeepers and domestic helpers, but also contributing to the phenomenon of the brain drain, skilled workers, doctors, accountants, nurses, engineers, etc. This phenomenon is not without problems both for the migrants and the families they leave behind," Lagdameo said.

Lagdameo said the problems arising from the migration of Filipino workers have become part of the church's social concerns, but were being ignored by the government which is bent on sending more workers abroad to boost the economy.

He said the workers have been deprived of employment rights, abused, assaulted and sexually harassed. Some suffer from isolation, alienation and discrimination. The migration also gives rise to broken families and conjugal infidelities.

"These are far from being considered problems of the State which is simply bent on sending them as 'super domestic helpers' because they bring in to the country between 10 to 12 billion dollars to help our local economy," he said.

ECMI head Bishop Precioso Cantillas said the government should ensure that the reasons behind the migration should be addressed so people would not be forced to go abroad because of a lack of options here.

"We want the government to do its homework in providing employment so that people will have the first alternative to stay home rather than go abroad and experience difficulties. The first thing to do is offer good alternatives in the country," Cantillas said at a press conference.

But since the migration is ongoing, the participants to the ECMI consultation recommended that the government be more vigilant in enforcing policies on the recruitment and deployment of OFWs and in implementing anti-trafficking and anti-illegal recruitment measures.

Lagdameo, however, said the global migration of Filipinos had a positive aspect in the sense that it allowed Christian Filipinos to spread their faith in other countries.

He said the OFWs represent a new form of lay missionaries.

Meanwhile, the participants of the ECMI-led consultation also recommended that the Church in the Philippines collaborate with government agencies to ensure values and faith formation are included in the pre-employment and pre-departure seminars of migrant workers.

Palace: No plan to protest cancellation of Bolante's visa

By Christine O. Avendano

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DENIED IT HAD plans to protest the cancellation of the visa of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante by the United States where he is currently detained.

"The Philippine government is not going to do anything to protest in his behalf because we understand that's the sovereign right of the host government to withdraw the visa it has issued," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

Ermita stressed that the Department of Foreign Affairs was not making any effort to file a protest with the US regarding Washington's cancellation of Bolante's visa.

"I talked with some DFA officials and they told me that it is the sovereign right of a host government to withdraw visas and therefore if they (US government officials) feel like doing it then there's not much any holder of a visa can do," Ermita told reporters in a phone patch interview.

He however admitted that he did not know for sure if indeed the US government cancelled the visa of Bolante, who had been tagged by the Senate as the architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

"But if indeed it has been withdrawn then there's not much that can been done so Bolante will have to suffer the consequences of being in the US," Ermita said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was quoted early this week in Belguim, where he had been traveling with President Macapagal-Arroyo, that the Palace planned to protest the cancellation by the US of Bolantes' visa upon the advice of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Told about this, Ermita said he did "not know how accurate those quotations on Senator Santiago and Secretary Romulo might be."

But Romulo yesterday clarified that no diplomatic protest would be filed over the US Embassy's cancellation of Bolante's visa.

In a statement emailed from London, Romulo said he respected the views expressed by Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations.

With a report from Nikko Dizon.

AN INVITATION

Everyone is invited to a triduum of Masses in honor of St. Padre Pio, from September 21, Thursday to September 23, Saturday at 12:00 NN at the Chapel of Sts. Padre Pio and Philomena, 4/F Goodwill Building, 393 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City.

The Celebrant for the triduum will be the famous healing priest, *Fr. Teofilo Rustia*. The Novena to Padre Pio and Holy Rosary will be prayed before the Masses.

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THE PRISTINE WATERS and white sands of this sand bar on Tubbataha Reef (above) will have added protection with the widening of the area covered by the marine park. It will also mean tougher job for the ranger station (right) tasked with protecting the area. EDWIN BACASMAS

Tubbataha park area now 3 times bigger

From page A1

TRNP as a no-take zone or an area that is off-limits to fishing, exploration, exploitation, unauthorized entry and other forms of utilization to protect the rich marine life in Tubbataha and the Jessie Beazley reef.

"It's like a bank account. We have set aside a larger portion (of our resources) for future use," Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) manager Angelique Songco told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Located 92 nautical miles southeast of Puerto Princesa City, the Tubbataha reefs lie on the Cagayan Ridge, a line of extinct underwater volcanoes whose eruption, scientists suggest, formed the reefs 15 million years ago, making the Tubbataha reefs one of the Philippines' oldest ecosystems.

The TRNP's centerpiece, Tubbataha's two reef atolls—the north islet 16 km long and five km wide enclosing a lagoon, and the other end spanning 2 km—lie smack in the middle of the Sulu Sea and are part of the marine eco-triangle dubbed as the center of marine biodiversity in the world.

The reefs alone, spanning an area of 10,000 ha, host 396 species of corals, representing 85 percent of all hard coral species in the country, along with 479 species of fish from 46 families, six species of sharks, two species of sea turtles, and nine species of marine mammals.

Diverse marine life

"The diversity of marine life found in Tubbataha is equal to or greater than any such reef of its size in the world," the Tubbataha website said.

The global conservation organization World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which has been doing research on Tubbataha for years, described it as "probably the most important marine protected area in the Sulu Sea."

It is a vital spawning and grow out area for larvae and spawn that repopulate the Sulu Sea, its rich resources flowing out to the coasts of Palawan and the Visayan Islands, according to Songco.

He said it was the World Heritage Committee that recommended the expansion of Tubbataha to boost its integrity as a premier marine protected area. The expansion of the marine park was a critical step to save the Philippines' reefs and allow the marine resources to be replenished.

Of the country's 27,000 km of coral reefs, only 5 percent were found to be in excellent condition and more than half were either critical or threatened, according to a World Bank report.

Cost of conservation

Songco said the expanded marine park would require around P10 million annually for its core maintenance, more than double the P4.5-million average income generated by the TMO from the collection of conservation fees (P3,000 per head) from tourists and divers who go to the TRNP.

"With the expansion of the marine park, our job just got a little bit harder, but because we believe it's necessary, we have to do this," Songco said.

At least seven people—four from the Philippine Navy, one from the Philippine Coast Guard and two from the Tubbataha Management Office—monitor the park area every day to ensure that no unauthorized vessel enters the protected park.

The TMO has recorded 11 apprehensions and has filed six cases against violators since last year, according to Songco.

Marine heritage

Overfishing, often with the use of dynamite and other explosives, posed a huge threat to the Tubbataha reefs in the 1980s, but persistent efforts by environmentalists and the Palawan provincial government led to its declaration as the Philippines' first national marine park.

The then Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park became a World Heritage Site on Dec. 11, 1993, making it one of only nine entirely marine World Heritage Sites in the world.

The Philippines will submit Presidential Proclamation No. 1126 to the World Heritage Committee for boundary modification of the Tubbataha marine park.

The World Heritage List includes 830 properties with cultural and natural heritage which the World Heritage Committee finds to be of universal value.

The Philippines has four other properties on the World Heritage List: Baroque Churches, Rice Terraces in the Cordillera, the historic town of Vigan and the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park.

Atong Ang loses fight against extradition

From page A1

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday confirmed that a US district court in Nevada has ordered Ang's extradition to stand trial for plunder. If Ang asks for reconsideration and is denied, he could be back in the country by late this month or in early October, he said.

He said a team from the National Bureau of Investigation would be sent to Nevada to fetch Ang.

According to Gonzalez, Ang's return would make it possible to reopen the case of Bentain, who disappeared after he released to media a videotape showing the then Vice President Estrada gambling in a Pagcor casino.

Ang, who fled the country in 2000 following the ouster of Estrada, has been detained in Las Vegas following his arrest by US lawmen in November 2001 on the basis of an extradition request by the Philippine government. He is the main coaccused with Estrada in the plunder case in which the ousted leader is accused of embezzling P130 million worth of tobacco excise taxes and of receiving illegal gambling bribes.

The government alleges that Ang helped Estrada set up a protection racket for "jueteng," the illegal numbers game. The charge sheet also alleges that he helped Estrada to steal the P130 million.

Gonzalez said Ang has offered to become a state witness against Estrada in the plunder case, but he said it would be too late for that as the prosecution panel has already finished with the presentation of evidence.

The justice secretary said he was interested in what Ang, a consultant of Pagcor at the time of Bentain's disappearance, has to say about the Bentain case.

"I have been given information about who were instrumental in the disappearance of Bentain, where his body was disposed of and who burned his body," Gonzalez said.

Bentain, who was 35 at the time of his disappearance, is believed to have been behind the release to the media of a videotape showing Estrada playing baccarat with Ang at the Heritage Hotel casino in 1996. The release of the tape in the middle of the 1998 presidential campaign was reportedly aimed at undermining Estrada's candidacy.

Bentain, who was one of the camera operators on duty when Estrada played at the Heritage Hotel on Sept. 15, 1996, disappeared in the early morning of Jan. 16, 1999, in the vicinity of the Grand Boulevard Hotel where Pagcor also operates a casino. He was reported to have received death threats after the videotape was shown to media.

Fishing banned in Guimaras

From page A1

ficer and company spokesperson).

The respondents were charged with violating the Clean Water Act of 2004, the Clean Air Act of 1999 and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Tan said Petron officials had not received a copy of the complaint and told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that the complaint would provide a "good opportunity and legal venue to air our side."

Tan gave assurance that the case would not affect the company's efforts to assist the affected residents and clean up the affected areas.

Main request

Bunye said the main recommendation of Coral Cay officials to Ms Arroyo in their meeting in London was to declare a fishing ban on Guimaras waters affected by the oil spill after the Solar I sank on Aug. 11 with its cargo of more than 2 million liters of bunker fuel.

"They will try to assist but their principal request to the President was for the enforcement of strict fishing regulations to relieve the pressure on fish resources in the area," Bunye said.

"According to Coral Cay, the best way for the environment to recover is to let nature take its course by lessening fishing and (regenerating) the fish stock," said Bunye, who noted that the government had initially considered restocking the waters with fingerlings.

THE NO-FISHING ZONE declared on Guimaras Island and its surrounding waters is designed to bring new life to the oil spill area, but the fate of the mangrove, shown here with signs of life despite being covered in oil, is still uncertain. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Let nature renew itself

"The President agreed because they obviously have quite a lot of experience. So the President deferred to their recommendation to let nature replenish itself," said Bunye.

Coral Cay is a partner of the Philippine Reef & Rainforest project at Danjungan Island and has another marine conservation project on Taytay Bay in Palawan.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo immediately instructed local government officials to touch base with Coral Cay's local representatives to map out the fishing ban plan, specifically its scope and duration.

Talks with the Prince

With the islanders' loss of their main means of livelihood, the government is likely to focus on providing alternative jobs and business prospects for residents.

Bunye said Coral Cay, a nongovernment organization, was also prepared to provide its expertise not only for the rehabilitation of Guimaras residents but also of a community in Southern Leyte, where a whole village of 1,000 people was swallowed up by a landslide last February.

Bunye said Coral Cay praised the Philippine government for allowing people on Guimaras Island to be directly involved in the cleanup.

The Guimaras disaster also cropped up in Ms Arroyo's meeting with Prince Richard, who is widely known for his special interest in environment conservation.

Bunye said the Duke was very interested in Guimaras and how he could help in its cleanup and rehabilitation. He said the Duke would bring in a team of environment experts to Guimaras in February to help determine the best strategy in rehabilitating the affected waters.

Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga, whose town was the hardest hit of five affected municipalities, was among those who signed the complaint.

"We believe that our case is strong," Nava said after the complaint was filed before the office of provincial prosecutor Luzermindo Calmorin.

Jordan Mayor Felipe Nava, Buenavista Mayor Samuel Gumarin and Sibunag Mayor Pedrito Gange will file similar complaints next week, he said.

Destruction of coastline

In the complaint, Gonzaga cited the destruction or damage of 239 km of coastline, 15.8 sq km of coral reefs, 105 ha of mangroves and 42 ha of seaweeds.

He said the oil sludge "destroyed our food supply chain and our fishing grounds for our fisherfolk" as well as the island's eco-tourism industry.

Deadly fumes

Gonzaga also said that the fumes coming from bunker fuel had led to the death of fisherman Remelio Dalida and polluted the environment of the affected villages.

He cited a study showing a very high level of toxicity in the villages of Lapaz, Cabalagnan and Tando.

He said the respondents violated the Clean Water Act which forbids the "discharging, depositing (and) causing to be deposited material of any kind directly or indirectly into the water ... which could cause water pollution..."

They also violated the Clean Air Act of 1999 by spraying "unknown and unclassified chemicals in our atmosphere," referring to the alleged spraying of chemicals on the shoreline of Barangay Guiwanon last month.

No claims for damages

Petron has denied it sprayed chemicals but Gonzaga said the alleged spraying was done at night without the knowledge of the Coast Guard and local officials. Police have confiscated three containers and five sprayers.

The respondents were also accused of violating the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2004 for the "transport and dumping in bulk of wastes in areas other than center of facilities prescribed by law."

The violations carry a punishment of from six to 12 years imprisonment or a fine of from P10,000 to P500,000, or both.

Plaridel Nava II, provincial legal officer, said there were no claims for damages involved in the complaint. *With a report from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*

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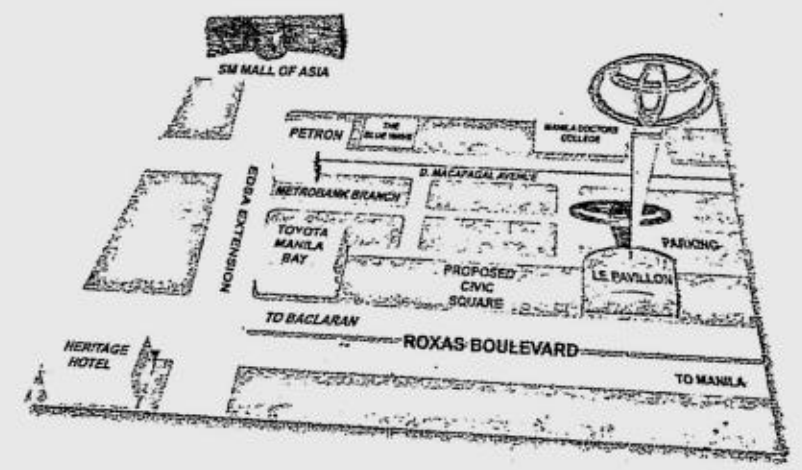

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OPINION

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Ain't perfect

BUT IT WILL HAVE TO DO. IN FACT, IT **HAS** TO DO. The Philippine government must pay a deposit of P3,002,125,000 to finally take possession of the controversial Naia 3, the mothballed third terminal at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport built by the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), a Filipino-German consortium.

EDITORIAL

Three years and four months after the Supreme Court declared the five contracts awarded to Piatco and its predecessor null and void, the government will finally be able to lay claim to the terminal. The Arroyo administration has used the President's recent visit to Europe as a providential and theatrical backdrop for the dramatic announcement, but in truth it has taken so long because delay was part of the administration's own legal strategy.

The Palace, for the longest time, felt disinclined to pay Piatco any compensation. But the Supreme Court that ruled the contracts null and void also ruled, a year later, that Piatco must also be paid a fair amount for the costs of construction—under the fundamental principle of just compensation.

Only last January, the government's chief lawyer argued that heeding the Court's decision ordering an initial payment of P3 billion was detrimental to the public interest, because it would further delay the terminal's already delayed opening. Alfredo Benipayo, then the solicitor general, asked the Court to reconsider its ruling because the government might end up assuming Piatco's liabilities, complicating the schedule. "The republic faces the legal possibility of having to defend itself against the assumption of liability to creditors of Piatco whose combined claims against the latter far exceed the value of the property expropriated," Benipayo argued.

After the Court ruled with finality last February that despite the infirmity of the contracts the costs of construction incurred under those contracts must be fairly compensated, Malacañang finally saw the light.

Last May, the discursive Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was surprisingly direct and to the point. Explaining the Palace decision to finally heed the Court and pay initial compensation, he put his finger on the pulse of the issue. "What is important is to have control; that was the consensus [among Palace officials]," he said.

He also said: "So if you make that initial payment, we assume control [of the terminal]."

Control, actual physical possession, immediately improves the country's position in any international arbitration case. It allows the government to estimate the actual cost of the terminal construction with greater precision. Not least, it allows the government to arrest the deterioration of the terminal, and to prepare it for use at the soonest possible time.

Use, it bears repeating, is a principal consideration. The entire controversy over Piatco and Naia 3 must be ultimately resolved in the public's favor. That means putting the terminal to good use, while—always—upholding the law.

We can understand the concerns raised by those who oppose even the initial payment to the consortium, especially on legal grounds. But the Supreme Court rulings remind us this course of action is in fact according to the law's highest standards.

The two terminals at the Naia, the country's main international gateway, are already heavily congested; indeed, even if the third terminal had opened for business on schedule, congestion would still have been a problem. Today, the rising volume of air traffic and stricter security measures have placed the first two terminals' capacities under serious strain. In other words, we needed to open Naia 3 **yesterday.**

But we also need to open it with scrupulous regard for the law. Let us not delude ourselves: The court decision finding the 1997 Concession Agreement, the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement and the Supplements "null and void" was not received well in the international community. It was, nevertheless, the right judgment call. All the more reason, then, to follow the law faithfully. Pay just compensation. Take possession. And claim control.

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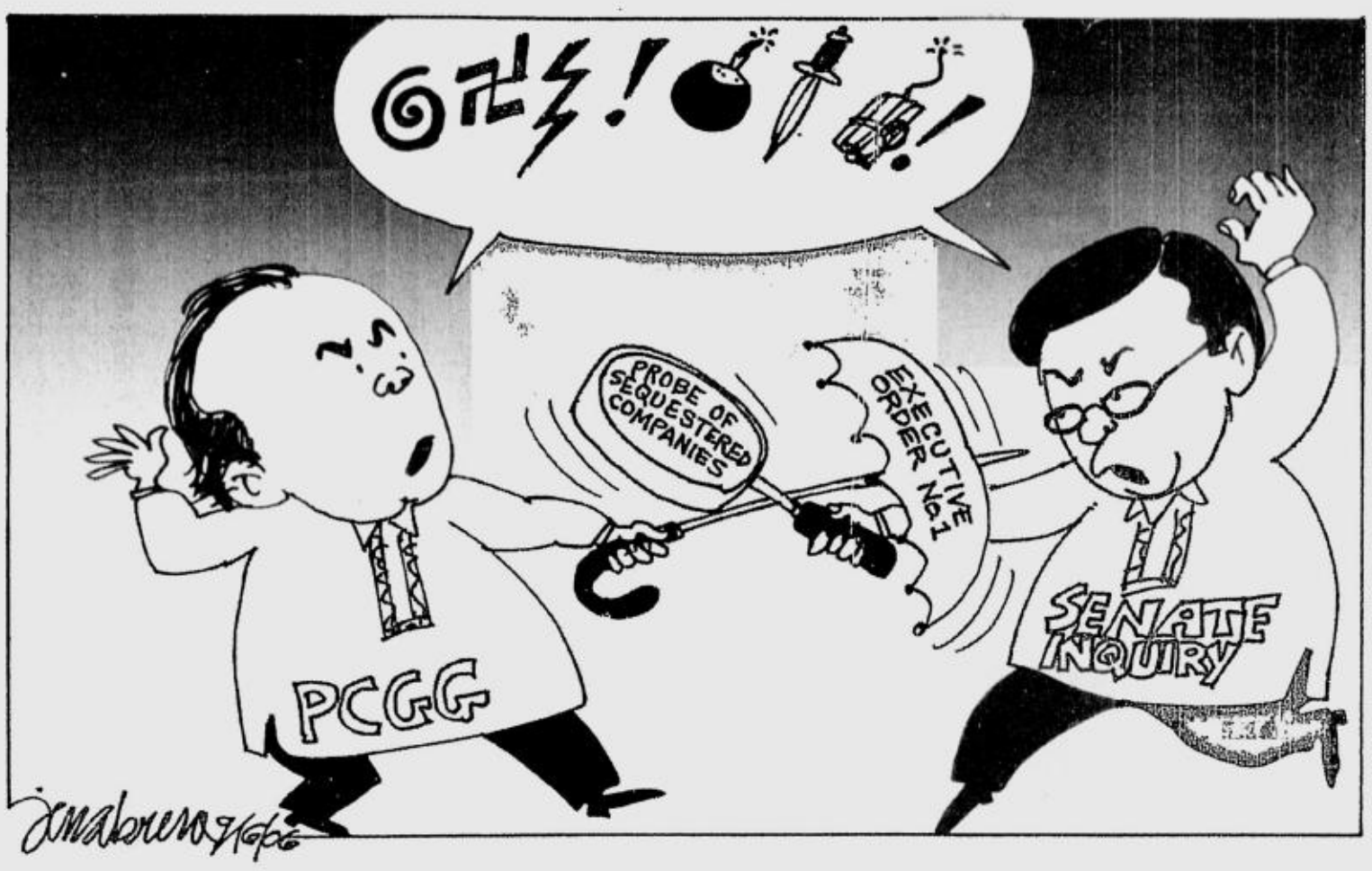


Favored dual citizens

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS AN ORDINARY PERSON, I CAN NO LONGER dissent from the decisions of the Supreme Court as I often did when I was still a member of that body. But in my private capacity, I can still express my respectful objections to some of its rulings if I feel they violate the Constitution we all have the duty to respect and defend.

One case I have in mind is Loida Nicolas-Lewis v. Commission on Elections, GR No. 162759, Aug. 4, 2006, which held that dual citizens are not required to possess the residence qualification prescribed in Art. V, Sec. 1 of the Constitution for the exercise of suffrage in this country. The said provision states in full:

"Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed for the exercise of suffrage."

In upholding the petitioner's claim to be admitted as an absentee voter because of her status as a dual citizen, the Court declared that "there is no provision in the dual citizenship law—RA 9225—requiring 'duals' to actually establish residence and physically stay in the Philippines first before they can exercise their right to vote."

True, but that requirement is found in Art. V, Sec. 1, which does not exempt dual citizens as a special privileged class.

The purpose of the residence requirement is to insure that the voter will be familiar with the conditions of the country, and specifically of the place where he proposes to vote, so he can intelligently exercise his right to participate in the solution of their problems and the promotion of their welfare.

Significantly, mere residence is not enough; it must be possessed for the required periods of time intended to make the voter feel that he is part of the country and the place where he is exercising his suffrage. A temporary sojourner, or, worse, a complete stranger, is not allowed by the Constitution to vote in a place where he has no deep-seated attachment or any interest in its welfare.

Even a **full** Filipino owing his **total** allegiance to the Philippines alone is not allowed to vote here if he has not resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place where he proposes to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. Yet, according to the Supreme Court, the **dual** citizen who divides his allegiance between the Philippines and a foreign state is allowed to vote here without complying with these requirements.

I am aware of the exceptions to the rule in favor of our citizens on official mission abroad or students taking post-graduate studies in foreign universities and even our hundreds of thousands of overseas workers. All of them **retain** their residence in our country although not physically present here. They are absentee voters who are allowed to vote in Philippine elections because they have complied with the above-stated constitutional requirements.

But the privilege should not apply to dual citizens who, having expressly renounced Philippine citizenship and transferred residence to their adopted country, are now graciously and illegally welcomed back by our forgiving government, courtesy of our Supreme Court.

Their rejection of our country carried with it their loss of residence here, which cannot be restored retroactively—even the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003 does not so provide.

It is worse in the case of those who become dual citizens *jure sanguinis* and *jure soli*, especially those who have never even been to the Philippines as their second country. Even the minor children of Filipinos naturalized abroad who have also grown up in their parents' adopted country and have never set foot in the Philippines will eventually qualify under the Lewis decision.

What residence in the Philippines can these strangers claim if they have not stayed and acquired it here in the first place? Yet they will enjoy more rights than full Filipinos who have lived in the Philippines all their lives but have not completed the six-month residence in the place where they intend to vote.

The Absentee Voting Law (RA 9189) applies only to those Filipino citizens who, although stationed abroad, have not lost or renounced their residence in the Philippines. It should not apply to dual citizens who were naturalized in other countries or were born *jute soil* and transferred or acquired their residence abroad. The Dual Citizenship Law (RA 9225) was passed only seven months later.

The decision makes much of Sec. 2 of Article V which says that "the Congress shall provide... a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad." That section applies to the **qualified Filipinos** mentioned above, not to the duals who have not yet acquired the residence status required in Sec. 1 of the same Article.

Considering the purpose of the residence requirement for suffrage as prescribed by the Constitution itself, I believe it should be applied strictly and fairly, without discrimination or preference.

Barred from studying in the United States

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD SAMANTHA CAMILLE Jumchai and her 14-year-old brother Stephen Cedric are very bright children, who would be considered assets anywhere. Their maternal aunt Lorraine del Prado and her husband, wanting the best education for them, enrolled them in two private Catholic schools in their home state of Washington in the United States. Tuition was not cheap—more than $30,000 a year for both, paid in advance (for foreign students)—but the Del Prados were more than willing to pay because, as Lorraine explains in a letter (from which I got my information) to US Ambassador Kristie Kenny, "We strongly believe that their high school experiences will have a transformational impact on their future intellectual habits and will enhance their capacity to contribute toward the progress of the Philippines."

The children were issued I-20 forms (proof of admission) by the US schools, the Del Prados were asked to produce proof of financial capacity to support the children during their study, and of course the children's parents also submitted documentation to show their financial as well as family ties to the Philippines (except for Lorraine, the entire family—parents, grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts—live in the Philippines).

But when Samantha and Stephen went to the US Embassy for their interview, accompanied by their mother, the consular official in Window 7 could not see enough "ties" to pull the children back home after their studies. He didn't think they would return. He denied them their visas.

They tried again one month later, accompanied this time by both mother and father, and presumably with more proof of financial capability to support the children on the part of the Del Prados, of financial assets in the Philippines, of the fact that all but one relative lived in the Philippines, and therefore constituted the strongest possible reasons for returning. But they were denied visas again, for the same reason: no "TIES."

The letter of Lorraine, who is a naturalized US citizen, to Ambassador Kenny complains about the arrogance and disrespect shown by the consular officials (particularly traumatic to the children seeing their parents treated thusly), notes that such behavior seems to be more the rule than the exception, points out that the fee for a visa application at $100 is more than the monthly income of the "average" Filipino, and asks a very logical question: If all the documents that are required to support a visa application are not considered, and even not examined by the consular official, why ask for them in the first place?

Having heard of so many horror stories about the arbitrary and arrogant behavior of many US consular officials (that they do not wear nameplates is supposed to protect them from retaliation, but this is a two-edged sword as it encourages abusive behavior that cannot be traced to them and penalized—shades of some of our own military and police personnel), why bother with Lorraine's complaint?

My first reason: In her letter, she refers to a September 2005 circular from the Secretary of State (signed: "RICE") to all diplomatic and consular officials regarding precisely the context that should govern student visa applications. The circular advises them to respect the admission of students as sufficient proof of their academic qualifications and intent to study; to be more circumspect about requiring evidence of financial ties of young students; and not to speculate beyond students' near-term intent to return to their country after their course of study. For example: "While students may not be able to demonstrate strong 'ties,' their typical youth often conveys a countervailing major advantage in establishing their bona fides: they don't necessarily have a long-range plan, and hence are relatively less likely to have formed an intent to abandon their homes."

It is obvious that the consular officials who denied Samantha and Stephen visas blatantly disregarded the guidelines. Negligence? Abuse of authority?

My second reason: It is high time those consular officials are reminded that Filipinos in the United States do not comprise a potential social or economic burden to that country. On the contrary, they have proven themselves to be an uplifting force. Look at their profile (based on 2000 US Census as presented in a Wells Fargo document entitled, "Filipino Americans: the Best-Kept Secret," by Mark Ng):

Fil-Am families have a median income of $58,323, almost 40 percent more than the US average of $41,994. Poverty incidence among Fil-Am families is 6.9 percent, vs. 12.3 percent for the US. Their average age is 31.7 years, vs. the US average of 35.4 years. They are net contributors to social security. They are more highly educated—42 percent with college degree, vs 24 percent for the US. Also, 66 percent own their own homes, vs. 58 percent for the US. Their labor force participation rate is 75 percent, vs the national average of 65 percent. Twenty-four percent of households have more than three income earners, vs. 12 percent for the US.

You don't hear of a Filipino mafia/mob, the way you hear of Vietnamese or Korean or Russian ones. In fact, Fil-Americans are called the Invisible Minority, yet their buying power is pegged at $50 billion a year.

Welcoming Filipinos, not shutting them out, would better serve the interest of the United States.

GMA in Hawaii for RP workers' centenary

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

HONOLULU—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO winds up her week-long official travel abroad today in Honolulu to join the centenary celebration of the arrival here of 15 Filipino sugar plantation workers aboard the S.S. Doric. These first 15 Filipino migrant farmworkers, known as *sakadas* and mostly from the Ilocos, were recruited in December 1906 by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association. Over the next 100 years, several waves of workers came to Hawaii, 102,000 of them between 1906 and 1929 alone.

This year, the State of Hawaii and the Filipino community especially honor the legacy of these *sakadas* in a year-long observance involving the 50th US state and the Philippines. GMA originally was invited to the closing ceremonies this December, but since she'll be hosting the Asean Summit of Leaders in Cebu at that time, her trip to Honolulu was scheduled after her trip to Europe and Cuba. GMA will attend a number of activities here. She will unveil the Sakada Statue at the Filipino Community Center and attend the dedication of the marker to the Filipino and American soldiers of World War II at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. She will meet with Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanneman as well as the Honolulu Advertiser editorial board and receive a briefing on the security situation in the Pacific from Adm. William M. Alford Jr., chief of staff of the US Pacific Command. Tonight her party will be feted with a dinner by Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle at the governor's mansion. Lingle, who visited Manila last January, is Hawaii's first female governor and the first Republican in 40 years.

* * *

The observance became official after the Hawaii State Legislature passed in 2002 a bill which created the 15-member Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission. President Arroyo, in response, created the Philippine Centennial Commission under the Commission on Filipinos Overseas chaired by Dante Ang, which coordinates with the Hawaiian group on centennial activities. One of its members is the distinguished Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies. The Commission on Filipinos Overseas invited Lindy last July to give a series of lectures on the Hawaii Filipino centennial theme in various Philippine universities and institutions.

* * *

The picture of the earliest wave of migrant workers that emerges from Lindy Aquino's PowerPoint presentation, titled "From Plantation Camp to Global Village: 100 Years of Filipino History in Hawaii," is both gripping and evocative. As she put it, "When the Filipinos first arrived in Hawaii, the plantation system was already entrenched. They were at the bottom of the plantation hierarchy. They suffered a lot of abuse, deprivation and loneliness in the plantations. They rapidly grew in number, joining the growing labor movement, which gave them considerable leverage over time in negotiating various issues related to their work conditions."

More about the Filipino pioneers in Hawaii in the next columns. My radio partner, Cecile Alvarez, and I hope to do some interviews over dzRH and also for my columns, in order to give the folks back home an idea of how those early years had been for the pioneers, as well as the progress and prosperity their Filipino-American descendants, many of them now highly respected professionals, enjoy.

* * *

I have followed the controversy involving PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and his commissioners, and the Senate. The senators are frustrated and angry over the PCGG officials' refusal to appear in a hearing on the sequestered Philcomsat, and their sentiment is understandable. But these officials are invoking President Corazon Aquino's first executive order which states that "no member or staff of the Commission shall be required to testify or produce evidence in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its official cognizance." Their argument, which Malacañang and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez are supporting, is that the EO has not been revoked by the 1987 Constitution, and it needs another legislative act to revoke it. Ms Aquino and her first executive secretary, Joker Arroyo, however, maintain it has been revoked. There is a lot of ambiguity in this case and Congress should have erased it by repealing the EO first.

* * *

Having been in Seoul for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties last week, I must confess to being disappointed that Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. delivered a privilege speech about a very private conversation he had with Speaker Jose de Venecia regarding Charter change. I think there are rules of civility that political leaders have to observe. I haven't spoken with JDV about his reaction to Pimentel's privilege speech, as he had left for Cuba to attend the Non-Aligned Movement conference, but he must feel hurt by Pimentel's grandstanding at his expense.

With Sen. Sergio Osmeña III virtually putting words in his mouth, Pimentel accused JDV of "bribing" him with membership in an interim parliament. But I find it curious that Pimentel would call the offer a bribe since it's the same proposal being offered by parliamentary advocates to all their colleagues in Congress: to be part of the interim parliament until elections for the regular one are held in 2007. This is not bribery, but bargaining, and this is accepted practice in legislatures everywhere in the world. Ironically, at the ICAPP conference, Pimentel spoke about how various political parties forge coalitions in order to acquire power in a parliamentary system. In any power-sharing negotiations, the question is who gets what. Pimentel is trying to sound innocent at the very least, or is being dishonest at worst.

How many women will have to die?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ABOUT THE MOST EXCITING DEVELOPMENT in the field of genital infections and neoplasia (tumors) is the development of a vaccine against the HPV or human papilloma virus. The HPV is the virus that causes warts, and certain types have been linked to almost 100 percent of all cases of cervical cancer. Two HPV types, 16 and 18, in particular, have been identified as causing 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases worldwide.

Seven countries, including the United States, have already approved the marketing of one brand of the vaccine—"Gardasil," manufactured by Merck—with a panel of advisors in the US recommending their use on girls as young as 9 and up to 18 years. In other countries (such as Mexico) it was recommended that the vaccine be made available to boys as well as girls entering puberty. GlaxoSmithKline, manufacturer of another anti-HPV vaccine "Cervarix," has completed its clinical trials.

"But Gardasil's benefits could be blunted by a complex brew of practical, economic and religious considerations," notes an article in The New York Times. One consideration is the number of required dosages, with the vaccine given as three shots over six months. At the recent AOGIN conference, leading experts in the field raised questions about the need to ensure that the girls (and boys) come for all three shots. What will happen if a girl gets only a single dose, or misses one shot? Will the vaccine's efficacy be affected if one or more shots overshoot the six-month limit?

An even more serious consideration is the current price of the vaccine. In the US, the full dose of three shots costs $360, or P18,000, certainly a daunting challenge for even the most motivated of parents. (Though when I observed how expensive the vaccine was, TV journalist Ces Drilon reminded me: "It's still cheaper than a cell phone!")

* * *

THOUGH for now the cost of the vaccine would make it largely impractical as a tool for a public health program on the prevention of cervical cancer, experts at the conference were optimistic that with time and increasing volume, the price of the HPV vaccine could be brought down sufficiently to make it practical and accessible.

Still, while the vaccine was intended precisely to protect the world's poorest women who are not covered by most screening programs, its present cost may still put the vaccine out of their reach.

This is why, said Prof. Ian Frazer, who was named "2006 Australian of the Year" for his and his team's work on the HPV vaccine, there's still a need to carry on with screening programs. Dr. Patrick Walker, quoted in yesterday's column, pointed out that if governments should drop all screening programs and devote resources instead to providing the vaccine, "there would be a large population of older women who are still at risk and would need regular screening."

Walker likewise warns that women are "likely to be falsely reassured by the protection (given by) the vaccine, and not go for screening." The British doctor remarked that "ideally" a vaccination program "should not undermine a successful screening program."

* * *

ANOTHER issue that has emerged in the controversy is that of "morals." "Giving the HPV vaccine to young women could be potentially harmful," Bridget Maher of the Family Research Council told the British magazine New Scientist, "because they may see it as a license to engage in premarital sex."

Katha Pollitt, writing in The Nation, comments with tongue firmly in cheek: "Just as it's better for gays to get AIDS than use condoms, it's better for a woman to get cancer than have sex before marriage. It's honor killing on the installment plan."

There's a reason, aside from the need to protect young women before they become sexually active, why the vaccine is recommended for boys and girls as they enter puberty. "Your immune response works much better early in life," notes Frazer, "while the immunity seems to 'switch off' in adults."

It's also important to note at this point that condom use doesn't provide full protection against HPV infection, though large-scale studies have shown that condom use does reduce one's risk of infection. A predisposing condition to developing cervical cancer, though, is smoking, to which a "very strong link," much stronger even than with lung cancer, has been found.

* * *

FOR the moment, despite all the excitement being raised in countries where the vaccine has been made available, the HPV vaccine is still a pipe dream for Filipino women. Neither Merck nor GSK has submitted the vaccine for licensing by the BFAD, and as mentioned earlier, the daunting cost will surely pose a huge obstacle to widespread acceptance or public advocacy.

Filipino public health experts, though, are fairly optimistic, pointing out to the Hepatitis-B vaccine which was rather pricey when it was introduced locally (such that having your "hepa B" became a status symbol), but has since been included in the expanded program of immunization.

But the "history" of the Hepatitis-B vaccine, which protects against liver disease and liver cancer, would show that it has taken over 20 years before it became fully accessible to Filipinos. And it has also required the relentless push of legislators, especially Sen. Pia Cayetano whose father died of liver disease, to bring the vaccine to the attention of health officials.

How long will we have to wait for the HPV vaccine? Ten Filipino women die each day from cervical cancer. And given the ease of diagnosis and 10-year "window" to treat it, these deaths are certainly unnecessary and wasteful. How many women will have to die before we start protecting our daughters?

Turning the page in Mexico

WORLD VIEW

Jorge G. Castañeda

THREE MONTHS FROM NOW, WHEN MEXICO'S new president, Felipe Calderón, takes office, many will consider it a dubious honor.

With oil prices higher than ever, its country-risk premiums lower than ever, remittances from abroad, tourism revenues and foreign investment hitting all-time highs, and annual GDP growth estimated at 4.2 percent for this year, Mexicans—in many ways—have never had it so good. Indeed, after 10 years of uninterrupted macroeconomic stability—something Mexico had not experienced since the 1960s—the middle class has expanded dramatically, and reasonably priced bank credit is now available to millions who had been excluded in the past. Yet, despite these robust changes, poverty remains widespread, inequality abysmal and social resentment is on the rise. This is why Calderón's opponent in July's presidential election, the populist Andrés Manuel López Obrador, obtained such a large percentage of the vote compared to the Mexican Left's previous high-water mark in the election of 2000. But it was not enough to win an election that López Obrador and his backers thought was in the bag.

The extremely tight race (Calderón won by 0.5 percent of the vote) and the profound disappointment suffered by López Obrador and his supporters led them to contest the ruling of Mexico's electoral authorities, and to refuse to acknowledge Calderón's victory. Instead, López Obrador, a former Mexico City mayor, and his supporters demanded a vote-by-vote recount, which is not mandated (though it is not proscribed) by the country's electoral laws. The Electoral Court, however, decided otherwise. This is where Mexico stands today: a mess by any definition, with no obvious solution in sight.

In the long run, the answer undoubtedly lies in the transformation of the Mexican Left, and partly also of the Mexican Right. For years, both were de facto subsumed within the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which ruled Mexico for seven decades. That epoch came to an end in 2000, and will not return. Today, Right and Left, as well as the PRI itself, are all separate entities, and have a great deal of reconstruction to do.

The right-of-center Party of National Action (PAN), the grouping of President Vicente Fox and Calderón, needs to acquire a sincere and profound social conscience. Otherwise, it will continue to be seen by Mexico's impoverished masses as the party of the rich—perhaps unfairly, but not entirely unjustly. PAN's metamorphosis is underway, but there is still much work to be done.

Much more importantly, however—and perhaps to the surprise of many benevolent international observers—the Mexican Left is nowhere near transforming itself into a modern, reformist, social-democratic party. Not only is it not New Labor; it is not even like the French, Spanish, or Chilean Socialist Parties, or Brazil's Workers' Party. It continues to be a movement with a revolutionary faction—not a majority, but certainly a large minority—bent on insurrection, socialism and "anti-imperialist" alignment with Cuba and Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

Mexico's Left refuses to embrace market economics, representative democracy and the rule of law. Obviously, many of its members and leaders do subscribe to these tenets, and disapprove in private of López Obrador's rabble-rousing antics. But, as long they remain relatively powerless, Mexico will remain unbalanced, deprived of the modern Left that it needs to combat poverty and inequality, and hostage to those who still believe in revolution and the assault on the Winter Palace.

Without these twin transformations of its Right and Left, Mexico can only keep running in place, while so many others speed forward. But change will not happen overnight, so Mexico needs short-term solutions to its travails. The most urgent, feasible and relevant steps involve electoral and legal reforms aimed at avoiding a repeat of the current protests over the presidential vote. These include establishing a run-off in presidential elections, so that Mexico's next president has a mandate supported by more than 50 percent of the voters. But they also entail the re-election of representatives and senators, recourse to referendums for constitutional amendments and independent candidacies.

Perhaps most importantly, Mexico must devise a French-style semi-presidential system wherein a designated prime minister is responsible for building majorities in Congress, and must be ratified by the latter. Eliminating the purchase of air time on radio and television during campaigns, with the consequent reduction in their cost, would complement these changes.

None of these indispensable and long-postponed reforms will convince López Obrador's followers that the end of poverty and inequality in Mexico is around the corner. But no significant improvement on these fronts can occur without thoroughly refashioning the country's decision-making process. Fox and his team thought that the mechanisms that worked during the authoritarian period could simply be transferred to the democratic era and function smoothly. In fact, none of the major economic and social reforms Mexico desperately needs in order to grow more rapidly, distribute wealth more evenly and combat poverty more effectively can be passed if the institutional scaffolding is not rebuilt.

That is what Calderón can and must do in order to render moot today's debates about the fairness of the election that brought him to power. It is time for Mexico to turn the page, but it must turn the right page. *Project Syndicate*

Jorge G. Castañeda is Mexico's former foreign minister and a professor of Politics and Latin American Studies at New York University.

The good fight

YOUNG BLOOD

Rouge

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

MY DAD GAVE ME NOTHING TO REMEMBER HIM BY when he went away. Not a locket, not a book, not a note, nothing. He must have done it on purpose; perhaps he did not want to upset me with his memories. I tried not to think of him as much as I could, but just when I have almost completely shut him out of my memory, I realize that I may never ever be able to remember what he was like in the future, and this scares me no end.

My dad died in the midst of a legal battle against graft and corruption in government. Which was ironic because he never was a civil servant all of his life. And unfortunate, because my mom was and he felt her battles were his to fight, too.

Working as a cashier in one of the country's state colleges, my mom accidentally witnessed illegal activities being perpetrated by the college president himself. There were ghost projects, fictitious construction workers, ghost deliveries and the president had a horde of willing accomplices. When my mom started to tighten up on the disbursements, the president started threatening her. Eventually, he relieved her of her position, which was an illegal act.

My dad was brave to a fault, and he was especially fierce when it came to protecting his family. He advised my mom to file cases against her boss. With all the evidence she had, he told her, it would take only a few months before the court sent him to jail.

Obviously, he overrated our justice system. Seven years have passed and the college president still reigns supreme in his little kingdom, thanks to two illegal extensions of his term. While he is being tried, he remains free on bail and continues to enjoy all the perks of his position. He goes to court on "official business" and gets paid by the government.

My dad had his first—and last—stroke after drafting a number of legal motions all day. We rushed him to the hospital, but the rupture in his brain was too severe for him to survive.

I was mad at my mom's corrupt boss. I was mad at the justice system. I was mad at the injustice of it all. We had lost our money. We had lost our peace of mind. And now we lost the one person who sustained our courage when everything told us to be afraid. We paid a very high price for trying to correct the system.

My family was ready to give up. I told my mom we could not possibly live all our lives under such stressful circumstances; one death in the family should be enough. We were ready to fall silent. We were ready to accept that you can't win all the time even if you're right and that good does not always triumph over evil.

I tried not to think of my dad. I tried to forget the time when he had to take a pain reliever so he could walk and attend a hearing with his swollen feet. I tried to forget the time when he attended my PTA meeting in the same school and defended our family in front of all the president's supporters. I tried to forget the fact that the president fabricated a case against my dad so he would have an excuse to relieve my mom of her job illegally. I tried to forget the fact that he died without ever clearing his name.

But things have their own way of working out. Call it divine intervention, karma, whatever, but I suddenly found myself with hope renewed. The tables have been turned and it won't be long before the college president retires. Sure, he hasn't spent a day in prison for all of his crimes. Sure, he will be leaving his post unscathed after stealing government property. Sure, we will win back our peace of mind by default. But I have learned that life is too short to be bitter all the time. There is a greater Judge in the afterlife, and He will give the kind of justice that we all deserve.

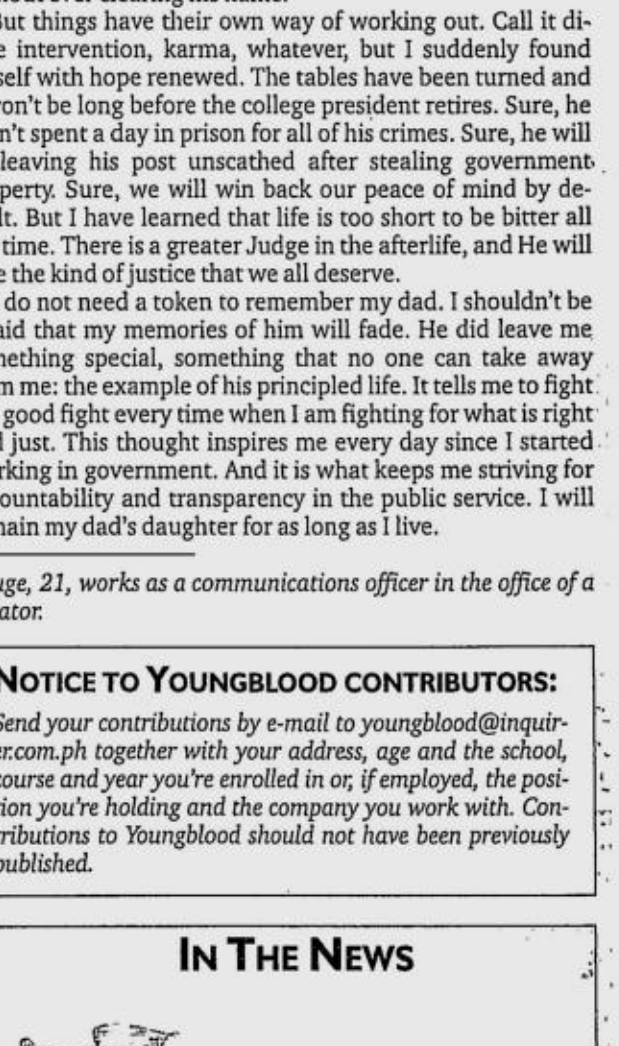
I do not need a token to remember my dad. I shouldn't be afraid that my memories of him will fade. He did leave me something special, something that no one can take away from me: the example of his principled life. It tells me to fight the good fight every time when I am fighting for what is right and just. This thought inspires me every day since I started working in government. And it is what keeps me striving for accountability and transparency in the public service. I will remain my dad's daughter for as long as I live.

Rouge, 21, works as a communications officer in the office of a senator.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Efren "Bata" Reyes

Inaction on maritime treaties

THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERvance of the annual "Clean Up the World" this September has been made more significant with the recent oil spill tragedy that hit the marine ecosystem of the Visayan seas, especially the island-province of Guimaras.

While President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared a state of national calamity in the area, similar disasters may be prevented in the future and the Philippines could be more prepared in addressing marine crises if we tap available international resources.

There are at least 38 international maritime conventions and treaties agreed upon by the community of nations. Some of these have been in existence since the '60s and the '70s. Unfortunately, the Senate has not ratified any of these, which could help government access international financial and legal assistance.

The departments of foreign affairs, environment and natural resources, and transportation and communications must call on the Senate to ratify these maritime conventions and treaties.

It is unfortunate that in an archipelago like the Philippines, whose coastline is longer than those of superpowers like the United States, we continue to have a land-locked vision, insensitive to the opportunities offered by the almost limitless ocean resources, and unperceptive of the dangers and vulnerabilities of having such a coastline.

The ratification of these conventions will also help develop shipping as our main transport system for domestic passengers and cargo; turn fishing and tourism into major industries and means of livelihood for our rural poor; prevent and resolve with dispatch threats and dangers of sea pollution, collisions and sinking; and develop the Philippines as the world's top provider of merchant marine for international maritime services.

Once ratified, the concerned government departments should prepare the implementing rules and regulations and quickly create an inter-agency task force that would maximize the benefits that could be derived from these international statutes and put up a system that would ensure the safety of our largest natural resource—our seas, which are known for marine biodiversity unequalled in the entire Earth.

—HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, former senator and environment secretary; vice president for Southeast Asia, Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas (ACOPS); founding chair, EarthSavers Movement, Unit 1203 Gotesco Towers, N. Almeda Lopez St., Ermita, Manila

Trash palliatives to cure ills in public school system

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT the low and decadent quality of public education in our country. Newly appointed Education Secretary Jesli Lapus doesn't have to resort to ineffective, worn-out formulas to address the existing situation—like the restoration of the national eligibility tests and other palliatives that are already passé. The chronic problems that the Department of Education refuses to resolve are the following:

1. Public schools, especially high schools, do not provide their students with textbooks for fear that the students might lose the books or get them torn, and the teachers would have to pay for the books.

2. Instead of giving textbook-based assignments, teachers, upon the instruction of their principals, ask their students to join "dubious projects" like buying costly tickets for stage plays, pocketbooks, etc. Teachers also force the students to buy assorted low-quality reading materials, like workbooks, allowing the former to collect commissions from their school cooperatives.

3. Schools collect illegal fees (e.g., for parents-teachers associations whose officers are barangay officials who have no children in the local schools. Most of the PTA officers remain as officers even long after their children have graduated from the schools.

Corruption even in public schools is prevalent. Local governments provide a yearly budget for central PTAs, but the funds—which in some cities and towns run up to millions of pesos—are used for other activities, like parties, or line the pockets of barangay officials.

If public school officials want to deal with this problem sincerely, they should re-adopt the Thomasian approach (popularized by the Americans in the early 1900s) by which students were made to read the textbooks and do assignments based on those books.

Where are the books which the national government buys every year? Perhaps, it is time for the DepEd to investigate all the schools and subject them to proper audit.

—MANUELA VIRAY, 1040 Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

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LETTERS

Failed democracy: Who's to blame?

AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION congressmen killed the 2006 impeachment complaint against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, they said the opposition has "no one else to blame but themselves." The same thing can be said of them and of their allies in the push for Charter change, specifically the shift to the parliamentary system. They say we need the change because the presidential system is not working in our country today.

Democracy worked in the Philippines—when the civilian-oriented presidential form of government put closure to controversial issues, such as the Marcos ill-gotten wealth and the legitimacy of the two Edsa revolutions.

However, recent events have shown that democracy is failing the nation today. Until now, there is no closure to the political issues and controversial scandals involving the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration, the Hello Garci tapes, the P728-million fertilizer scam and the killing of leftists and journalists, among others, because the government is doing everything in its power to block and prevent our right to information (e.g., by killing of the impeachment complaint; by adopting the calibrated preemptive response policy; and by issuing Executive Order 464 and Presidential Proclamation 1017, by its silence on Bolante's detention in the United States).

Why is democracy ineffective in our country lately? The administration lawmakers and Charter change advocates should themselves answer this fundamental question as they fight to keep their grip on the reins of power forever and ever. If democracy isn't working in our country now, it is because GMA and her allies are making sure it won't. If democracy is failing our people now, GMA and her allies have no one else to blame but themselves.

—MAX TAN, alaric_max@yahoo.com

Imperialism has become outmoded

WE CAN ALMOST PITY US PRESIdent George W. Bush. Despite his swagger, Osama bin Laden, his nemesis, remains at large five years after 9/11. Three years after invading Iraq, the insurgency continues to rage, with American and British fatalities reaching the 2,000 mark, and a number of innocent Iraqi civilians dying violently every day.

In the meantime, Bush's popularity in the United States has slipped into negative; abroad it is worse. President Lyndon Johnson's fear during the Vietnam war—that the United States might be perceived as a "pitiful, helpless giant"—is becoming a reality.

It's all because America's leaders refuse to face the truth: that imperialism has become outmoded. After World War II, the colonial system began unraveling as the colonies obtained their freedom—some by force, others by threat of force. This was a time when the colonial powers were weakened by a war among themselves for a redistribution of colonies. The British Empire shrunk with the loss of its jewel, India. Then it lost Malaysia and Singapore as well.

The US government "granted" the Philippines—conquered after a 10-year war (1898-1910) in which a million Filipinos died—its independence in 1946. But in granting the Philippines its "independence," the United States made sure that its freedom was limited by lopsided economic and military treaties. The Philippines became a model of neo-colonialism—a system wherein nominally independent states are dominated by foreign powers through the control of their natural resources and their foreign and economic policies. That's why the Philippines remains poor.

The United States launched its war on Iraq to seize its oil resources. The United Kingdom, which used to dominate the Middle East, is now acting as America's camp follower to share in the spoils. Israel was sponsored by the United Kingdom and the United States to keep the Middle East perpetually divided, following the Roman strategy: "Divide and Conquer." This is no "clash of civilizations" or a "religious war." This is the old imperialist war of conquest waged by the strong nations against the weak. Fortunately, imperialism has become outmoded.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO, mfalmario@yahoo.com

An adventure story that bombed

ALLOW ME TO COMMENT ON Neal Cruz's Sept. 6 column ("The real culprit behind Poro Point takeover"), particularly on his claim that a self-proclaimed anti-terror expert had exposed security deficiencies at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

First off, frequent travelers abroad would attest that the security at the Naia is one of the tightest in the world, so much so that the redundancy checks on baggage and travelers sometimes draw the ire of the latter. But in the face of the ever-heightening threat of terrorism, the strict security measures seen at the Naia are most welcome.

We should also note that Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has said that no real explosives were carried by the agent for testing aboard a plane bound for Davao from Manila.

News reports say that modeling clay, not a real clay-like C-4 explosive, was carried by the agent; therefore, it could not have been detected by the bomb-sniffing dogs at the Naia. Had the agent carried real C-4, then he would have surely been caught as even the least trained among the bomb-sniffing dogs would have detected its giveaway characteristics.

If the agent claimed that he brought aboard real C-4, then it may just be a case of someone embellishing a story for the purpose of bragging.

—AIZA HERMOSA, 294 Sampaloc St., Cembo, Makati City

DOH it na! "4-S KONTRA DENGUE"

42% less DENGUE cases this year

compared to the same period last year.

Dengue Cases & Deaths by Region
Philippines, as of September 9, 2006

Region	Cases			Deaths	
	2006	2005	%Change	2006	2005
I	870	948	-8.2	11	6
II	151	688	-78.1	4	9
CAR	1,136	718	58.2	1	6
III	1,956	4,019	-51.3	19	27
IV-A	813	558	45.7	17	5
IV-B	16	18	-11.1	0	0
NCR	4,893	3,402	43.8	53	40
V	98	346	-71.7	1	8
VI	950	1,198	-20.7	9	1
VII	1,786	1,994	-10.4	42	65
VIII	70	1,046	-93.3	0	4
IX	342	2,197	-84.4	5	11
X	571	3,398	-83.2	7	77
XI	704	1,750	-59.8	8	26
XII	319	1,884	-83.1	9	14
ARMM	89	321	-72.3	2	3
CARAGA	151	1,197	-87.4	0	14
TOTAL	14,915	25,682	-41.9	188	316

The **4-S** Against Dengue

- **S**earch and Destroy breeding places of dengue-causing mosquitoes such as old tires, coconut husks, roof gutters, discarded bottles, flower vases and other containers that can hold clean stagnant water;
- **S**elf-protection Measures such as wearing of long-sleeve shirts and long pants and using mosquito repellants are a must during day time;
- **S**eek Early Consultation when early signs such as fever and rashes set in; and
- **S**ay No to Indiscriminate Fogging except for dengue outbreak.

Dengue Express Lane

For faster case management and treatment, all DOH-run hospitals all over the country now have Dengue Express Lanes where families and relatives can bring family members suspected to have dengue.

"We have to be vigilant in our guard against dengue. We cannot afford to be complacent and just sit down, especially not with the fact that most lives it claims are the hope of our future: our children."

Francisco T. Duque III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

"Search and destroy is the only way to beat dengue and we can only win this battle if we fight it together. Let us keep our environment healthy and dengue-free "

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines

INQUIRER Visayas

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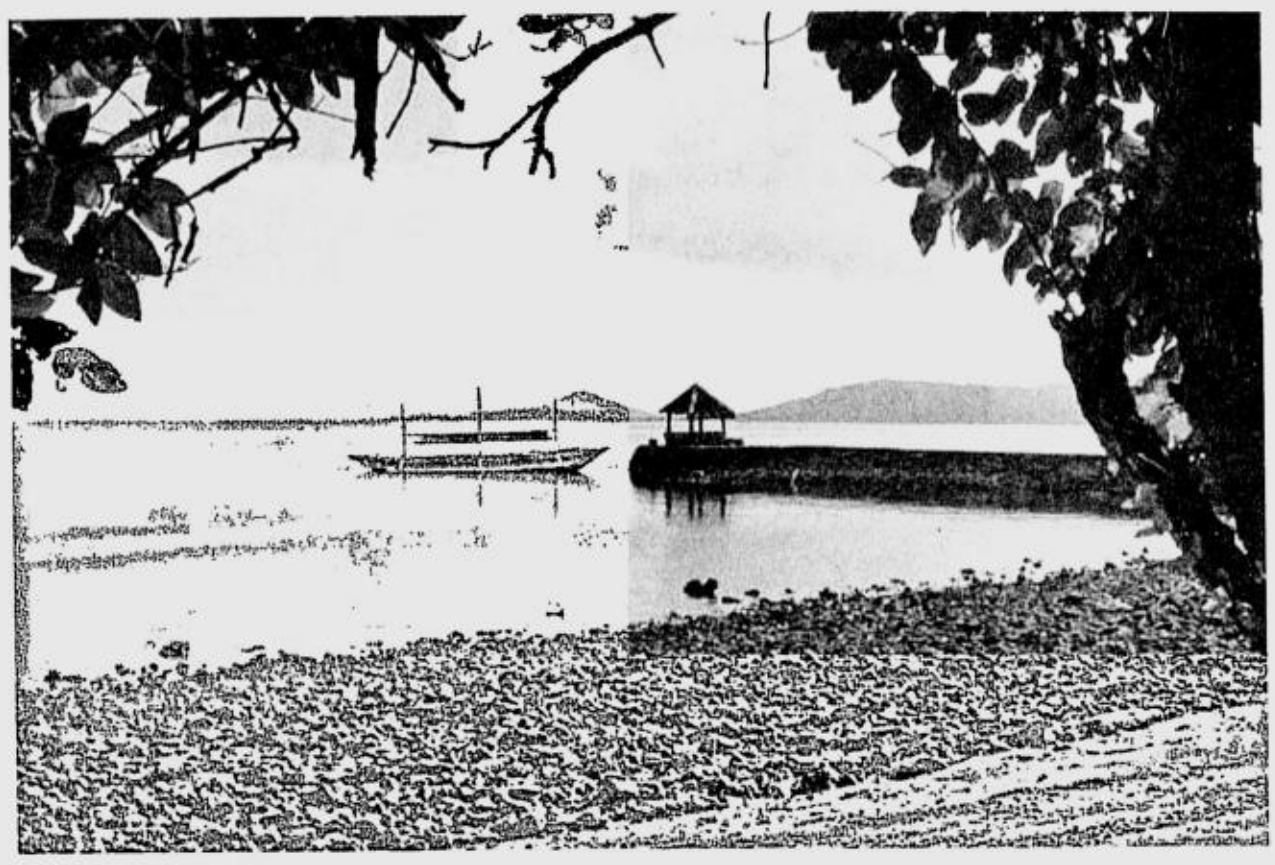
Fil-German kids lament loss of Nagarao

By Hazel P. Villa
Nagarao Island, Guimaras



THERE IS NO BETTER PLAYGROUND THAN an island of white sand ringed with corals, nor is there a finer classroom than a mangrove forest for priceless lessons on ecology.

Filipino-German brothers Andreas, Mateus and Marvin had at first the nonchalance of children when they took the 15-minute motorboat ride from Kupo Wharf in Barangay Sabang, Sibunag to Nagarao Island owned and managed by their parents Martin and Helen Stummer.

But upon disembarking on the island's pier facing Sabang, the brothers were taken aback momentarily by the sight of three volunteers loading oil-soaked debris on a small outrigger a few meters away from the white coralline beach.

Marvin, the youngest brother at 12 years old, only had bare feelings when he said in Hiligaynon, "*Nakibot ako* (I was shocked)."

Marvin liked eating crabs caught off the waters of Nagarao, which is a marine reserve, while Andreas, 19, was more partial to the beachfront.

Mateus, 17, loved the natural forest of Nagarao and the seascape around White Monkey Rock, a rock formation beside Nagarao surrounded by coral gardens.

"When I was 8, I would swim and snorkel near the mangroves at high tide and pick shells of different colors. Some shells we boiled and we used anything sharp to pull out the meat," said Mateus.

The Stummer couple, now estranged, bought the island in 1986.

Andreas and Mateus immediately checked parts of the 10-hectare island, which their mother said in telephone calls was smeared with bunker fuel oil from the sunken MT Solar 1 that ran aground off southern Guimaras last Aug. 11.

Visitor

It was Aug. 28 and the boys were absent from school so they could join their mom to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo. The President was on her second visit to Guimaras Island and was scheduled to sleep in a neighboring resort just to prove that Guimaras was still a place to visit despite the oil slick.

Andreas and Marvin were busy with schooling and keeping house in Jaro, Iloilo City, where they were based most of the time as their Ilongga mom managed the island.

The President's visit was also the first time for the Stummer brothers to see their island-playground after the oil slick.

Had they seen it when the oil slick first crept on its beach on Aug. 26, they would have been more aghast.

"We had been warned earlier that the oil slick would come our way because of the current. And then we saw and smelled the oil," said Helen as she recounted the first time she encountered the oil on the shores of Nagarao.

Helen's sister, Mely Solayao-Karl and her 16-year-old son Michael from Wuerzburg, Germany, were set to enjoy their vacation but had no choice but to join in the frenzy of stopping the slick from reaching the beach.

It was like a joke, narrated Mely, 44, that they arrived together with the slick.

"I have wounds on my legs from helping pull those thorny, tall and lush plants beside the shore because we couldn't think of anything else to do to stop the oil," she said.

"This slick reaching Nagarao is the second tragedy of my life," said Mely, a former manager of the island-resort before she married her German husband Karl.

The oil first smeared parts of the mangrove forest and then White Monkey Rock where tiny oysters and shells were, said Rima Tioco, a family friend of the Stummers who was with Mely upon her arrival in the island.

"*Kalain-lain. Daw masuka ka. Daw ka* toxic (It was terrible. You felt like retching. It seemed so toxic)," said Tioco, 45, as she explained that the smell was most terrible when the bunker fuel oil stuck on organic and decaying things like driftwood and mangroves.

About 10 island residents and resort staff helped put up more oil-spill booms and scoop the slick with their bare hands as they had no gloves or boots.

Five volunteers from the Iloilo City-based Mountain Tigers Rescue Volunteers stayed in Nagarao from Aug. 15 to 29 to help in the cleanup with Helen spending more than P15,000 for their food and P100 daily allowance.

The native of Janiuay, Iloilo, said the greater tragedy is in the loss of investments and the foregone revenue of Nagarao because of the oil slick.

Some 60 percent of Nagarao's visitors are Europeans who normally stay for several weeks or months in Nagarao, which is 30-percent mangroves, 50-percent white beach, and 20-percent rock formation surrounded by coral gardens.

Retreat

Helen said guests cancelled their bookings done months before when they heard of the MT Solar 1 sinking and the subsequent news about the spread of the oil slick.

A group of 10 Koreans already gave their down payment for an overnight stay for Aug. 21 and on Aug. 30, a group of 30 people from Manila was supposed to stay for two nights in the island-resort's 16 cottages.

"From November to March, the Europeans, including a couple who owns a house here, would come here and some stay for as long as three months. All of them are gone now," said Helen, sighing.

A day's stay in Nagarao would cost $38 (about P2,052) for a foreign tourist.

The fees include three meals and accommodation, but exclude transportation expenses.

While waiting for the President on Aug. 28, Stummer said she had a conversation with Petron officials who said they will be "very cooperative" in helping Nagarao recover.

On Aug. 31, Melvin Ballester, a team leader of Petron for coastal cleanups came to Nagarao and said the island-resort could hire 15 persons for the cleanup whom Petron will pay P300 a day.

The hired persons were either staff of the resort and residents of the island who worked from Sept. 1 to 15, after which Petron said they will be putting more spill booms around Nagarao.

"I asked Petron to refund me for my expenses prior to Petron's help. That's about P15,000 but Melvin said his bosses will still have to meet about these things. Up to now, nothing has come out of my request," said Helen.

She said she won't file for legal action against Petron if they paid her for her previous cleanup expenses, continued to rehabilitate Nagarao and financially made up for revenue losses.

The Ilongga said she was also banking on the $300-million claims from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund currently in Guimaras to orient affected Guimaras residents and resort owners on how to go about the claims.

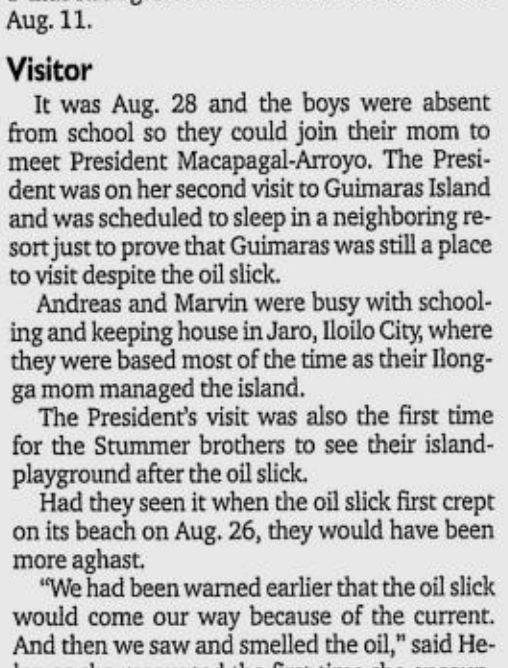
Helen's estranged husband Martin had earlier threatened to file a P10-million damage suit against oil refiner Petron Corp. and Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owners of the sunken MT Solar 1. Martin, 66, said he had invested P100 million over the past 18 years to protect the corals and marine life around Nagarao and to beautify the island.

Helen complained that her estranged husband now living in Binalbagan, Negros Occidental, did not consult her about the damage suit and was "bypassed" even in view of the fact that ownership of the island is in her name.

The Stummer boys have accepted the fact that it may have to take a long time to bring back their island-playground to its former pristine beauty.

"I have no idea how to clean all of that oil. Maybe just clean the rocks but it's a waste of time because some of the oil might just come back," said Mateus.

THE VIEW of the pier of Nagarao in the early morning at low tide.
PHOTOS BY HAZEL VILLA



RESORT owner Helen Stummer laments the oil-smeared western shore of Nagarao.

ANDREAS (left) checks out the bunker fuel oil that mixed with the coralline sand of Nagarao Island Resort.

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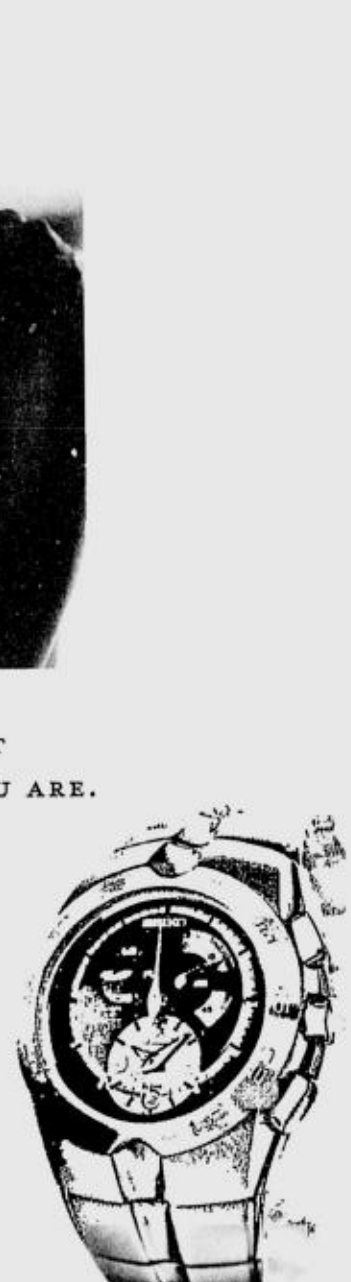

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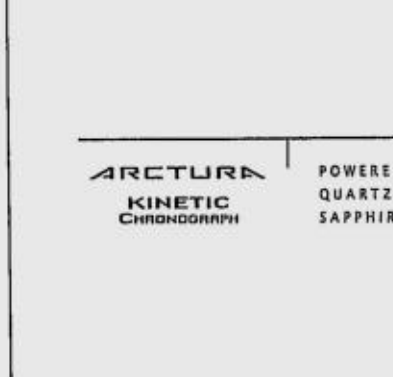

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STL new milking cow after 'jueteng'

Cops, local execs want more from gov't lottery

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—JUETENG LORDS, some of whom got licenses to operate the government-run small town lottery (STL), have begun bracing for negotiations as police and local officials demanded bigger shares from the proceeds of STL, an INQUIRER source said on Friday.

The source, an STL license holder in Luzon, said top officials of the Philippine National Police and the Department of the Interior and Local Government met last week with executives of the franchiseholder, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, to propose a plan to establish an STL task force.

"The PNP and DILG want to control that task force. While they want bigger shares on top of the 5 percent [that is allowed by law], they're making their demands without yet stopping jueteng operations that compete with STL," said the source.

He called to react to an INQUIRER report on the simultaneous operations of STL and jueteng, a racket that two police informants disclosed.

The source's statements indicated that police and local officials were divided in their positions.

One camp, he said, wanted to get grease money from both the state-run game and illegal numbers game. Another camp was settling to contend with bigger STL shares to compensate for lost shares in jueteng.

Benefits

The second position is seen as beneficial to the Arroyo administration because it could then claim success in eradicating jueteng, he said.

The source said jueteng operators had preferred to stick with STL. This, he said, was why jueteng has not resumed on a full scale like during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

What exist now, according to him, are illegal operations, run by *cabo* (jueteng area managers) outside the control of their former financiers.

Police sources have claimed otherwise, saying jueteng financiers who are now running STL have been cheating the government in two ways by not fully remitting the bets and using STL as cover for jueteng.

According to the industry source, the PNP and DILG were paving the way for the negotiations by stamping out jueteng first.

Romualdo Quiñones, STL project director of the PCSO, declined to answer if the meeting really took place.

Quiñones said the confirmation should be obtained from a top PCSO official. The executive was not in his office when the INQUIRER called.

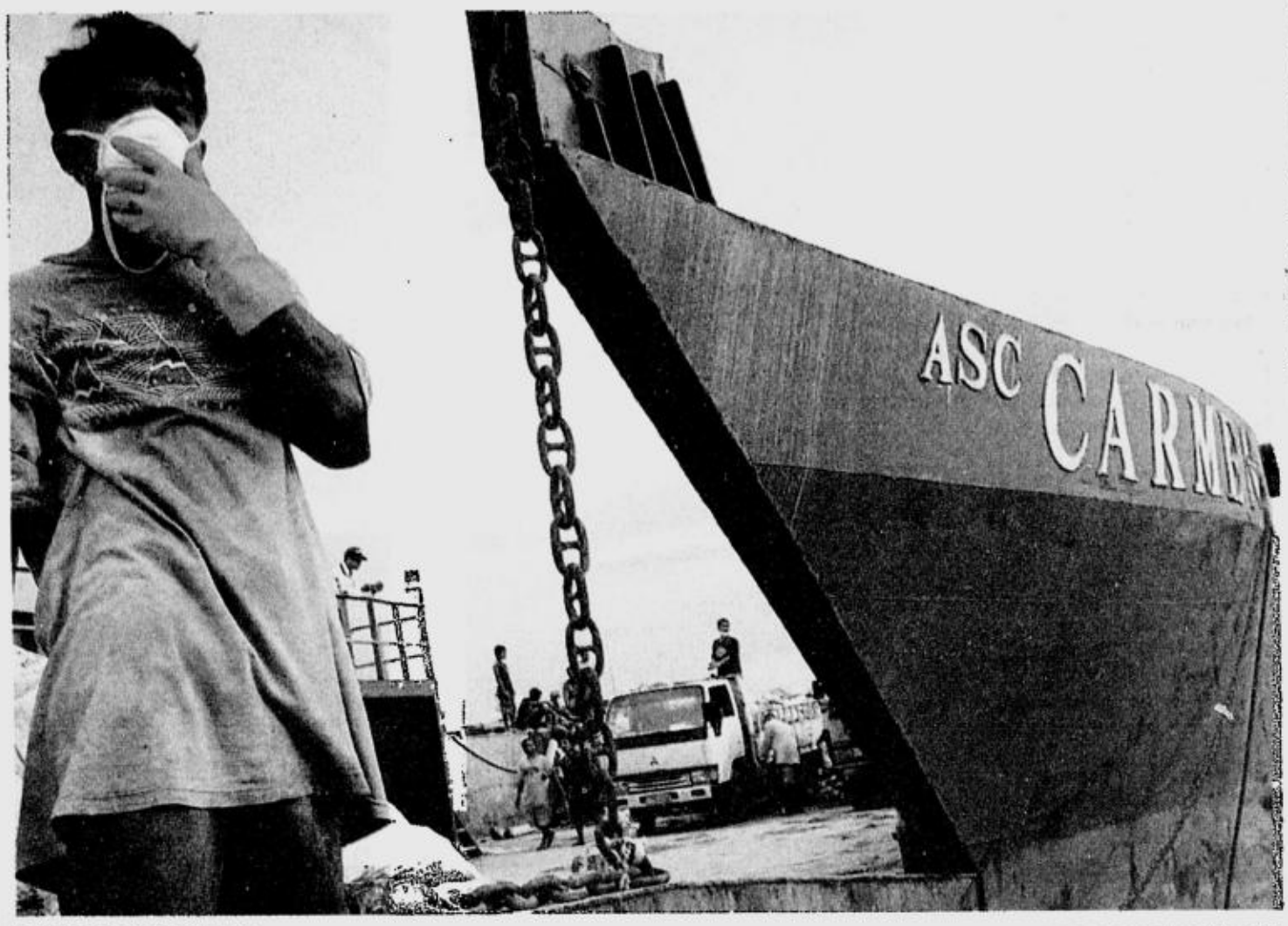
Director General Oscar Calderon, PNP chief, confirmed that the PNP and DILG were "working with the PCSO to be able to put a stop to the use of STL as a cover for jueteng."

Grease money

Calderon, in a phone interview, said he was aware that not all STL collections were remitted in violation of PCSO rules.

He also denied that police and local officials have demanded grease money from STL operators.

"What we want to see is that the PNP and the local governments get their legal shares and for the PCSO to get the right amount of revenues for charities," he said.



DUMPING GROUND ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS
A worker loads bags of oil debris onto a barge docked at Nueva Valencia in Guimaras. Nueva Valencia was the town hardest hit by the oil spill from a Petron-rented tanker that was carrying at least 2 million liters of oil.

MILF says it's an ally vs terror

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBeration Front (MILF) claimed it is now allied with the United States in the global war against terror.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the guerrillas are in direct contact with US officials as far as the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah, said to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, is concerned.

"We are directly talking to them. The first US operation that we allowed happened in Lanao del Sur. We allowed US spy planes to fly over our territories," Kabalu said.

He said that later, US military helicopters conducted reconnaissance flights over Mount Cararao, where JI militants were allegedly training.

The MILF also maintains a camp in the area.

Kabalu said that from July to September 2005, the MILF also gave access to US military officials during the military's antiterror campaign in Maguindanao.

The MILF has been repeatedly accused of coddling terrorists.

But Kabalu said the fact that it has cooperated with the antiterror campaign disproved the allegations.

He said as a revolutionary group, the MILF does not adhere to terrorism to further its objective, which is to protect the rights of the Moro people.

The MILF has agreed to negotiate for a settlement to the decades-old Moro rebellion.

But recent talks hit a snag on the issue of ancestral domain. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

ROUNDUP

Inmate rearrested

KIDAPAWAN CITY—One of the two inmates who bolted the heavily-guarded North Cotabato provincial jail on Monday has been recaptured. Amas provincial jail warden Nonie Piñol said guards arrested Felix Oracoy an hour after he and Jovanoi Badong scaled the jail's back fence. Piñol vowed to penalize the jail guards on duty and directed other guards to capture Badong. In South Cotabato, the provincial government will start releasing this week livelihood assistance to parolees and pardonees.
Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Bomb for lawyer

COTABATO CITY—A bomb exploded in a posh subdivision here Sunday night but no one was hurt. City police chief Senior Supt. Panlares Adap said the explosive device went off seconds after lawyer Frances Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi's vehicle passed at about 11:20 p.m. Sayadi, solicitor general of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said she believed she was the target of the bomb attack but could not say who was behind it. "My vehicle was about 20 meters away from the explosion," she told reporters. Adap said Army bomb experts also recovered another explosive device near the blast scene.
Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Taal in Batangas seal

BATANGAS CITY—The provincial board unanimously approved on Thursday a resolution requesting the provincial government to place Taal Volcano and Taal Lake as a centerpiece of the Batangas province's seal. Board Member Florencio de Loyola, framer of the resolution, also urged the provincial government to place Taal volcano and lake at the center of the seal—now consisting of a centuris, sailing ship and horse—to better promote the volcano and the province worldwide.
Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Ex-Legazpi mayor dies

LEGAZPI CITY—Former Legazpi City mayor Imelda Roces, who served from 1991 to 2001, died of a heart attack at around 6:30 p.m., Sept. 7. She collapsed in the middle of a speech during the National Crime Prevention Week celebration at the National Police Commission central office in Makati City. Napolcom officials said she was declared dead on arrival at the Makati Medical Center. Roces, 70, a mother of five, was the vice chair and executive officer of Napolcom since 2004.
Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

3 dead in Naga fire

NAGA CITY—Three persons were killed when fire broke out at 12:45 a.m., Sunday in the house of lawyer Simeon Adan Sr., former member of the Naga City Council, along Ateneo Avenue here. Police identified the dead as Kristina Corazon, 20, Simeon Anthony, 11, and their father Antonio Adan, son of the lawyer. The city fire department has yet to determine the cause of the fire.
Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Suspected reb slain

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—A suspected New People's Army rebel was killed in a clash between Army forces and New People's Army rebels in Castilla, Sorsogon Tuesday. The Southern Luzon Command said soldiers clashed with five NPA rebels in Barangay Amomonting at around 5:30 a.m. with one unidentified man killed. Also on Tuesday, in Pio Duran town in Albay, suspected NPA assassins killed Macasitas Barangay Captain Abelardo Nuñez on suspicion of being a military informer, said Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parayno.
Deltin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

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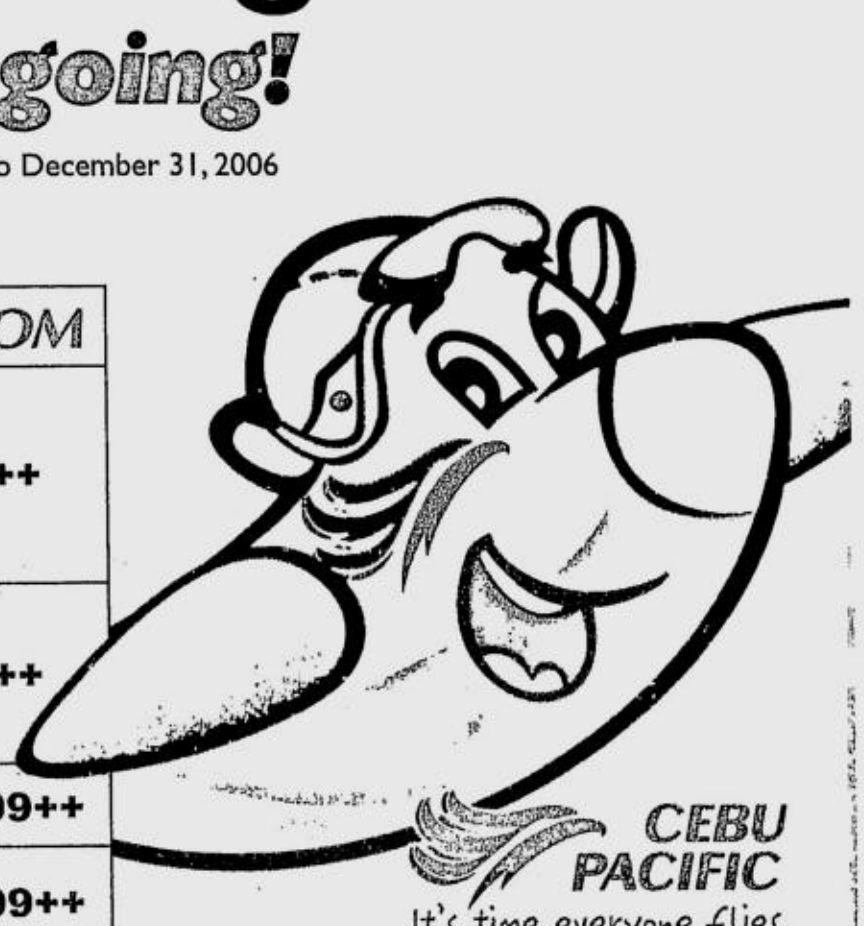

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Dengue season keeps DOH busy with campaign

THE DEPARTMENT of Health has strengthened its campaign against dengue fever with almost two thousand cases and four deaths caused by the mosquito-borne disease already recorded in the Cordillera, Laguna and in Eastern Visayas since January.

In the Cordillera, the number of dengue cases from January to September increased to 1,189 from the 733 cases that were reported over the same period last year with Baguio City accounting for 56 percent of the cases, the DOH in the Cordillera said.

Health officials in Laguna reported 568 dengue cases from January to August, with three reported deaths due to the deadly virus transmitted by the day-biting mosquito Aedes aegypti.

The DOH in Eastern Visayas said it recorded 108 cases over the last eight months, with Leyte province having the highest number of cases at 95.

DENGUE victim Jericho Belison, 7-years old, lies in bed as his mother comforts him at the Rizal Provincial Hospital, Sept. 8, 2006. Belison was brought to the hospital for dengue. JOAN BONDOC

Luzon cases

In Bataan, dengue claimed the life of a girl from Balanga City on Thursday. Angelica Sapa, 4, was first taken to the Bataan General Hospital after she suffered from high fever. She was transferred to the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City where she died.

Baguio City has the highest number of cases with 670 or 56 percent of the total cases while Benguet ranks second with 305.

Ursula Segundo, an entomologist of the DOH-Cordillera, however, said that despite the increase in the number of cases in Baguio, there has been no declaration of an outbreak as this year's number of cases has not exceeded the normal expected range set by the DOH.

"This is a global trend when the number of dengue cases reaches their peak in a cycle of three to four years. This is the cyclical nature of the disease. This could be due to the susceptibility of the population to the disease when their immune system decreases in an environment favorable to the breeding of dengue-carrying mosquitoes," she said.

Breeding sites

She said this cycle could be broken if people would sustain activities that would destroy the mosquito's breeding sites.

DOH records showed that the patients' ages ranged from zero (infants) to 89 years.

In Cagayan, officials of 29 village councils in Tuguegarao City have appealed to the city council to declare a state of calamity in the city due to the rising cases of dengue infection.

The village officials said they needed to access the city's calamity funds so they could buy medicines and mobilize people to destroy the breeding grounds of dengue-carrying mosquito.

Reports from the DOH in Cagayan Valley said at least 15 people had died in the region due to dengue fever from January to September this year.

In Laguna, provincial health director Dr. Alfaneo Lagos revealed that most of the 568 reported dengue cases were recorded in its three densely populated cities of San Pablo City (122 cases), Calamba (58) and Sta. Rosa City (34). The rest of the cases were from the province's 28 towns, with the three reported deaths coming from Pila, Mabitac and Nagcarlan towns.

Cleanliness

Lagos said they expected a significant reduction in the number of dengue victims in the province compared to last year's total of 1,163 cases because of their massive campaign in controlling the spread of the disease.

Lagos asked household residents to cooperate by maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings so there would be no stagnant water which could be breeding places of the dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

Aside from the continuous monitoring and defogging of mosquito-infested areas throughout the province, the health department is also making efforts to identify areas where mosquito larvae exists so they can directly apply anti-larval chemicals to kill the dengue-carrying insect.

In Eastern Visayas, the DOH has directed its health personnel to conduct massive information drive in all villages, schools and the local governments on how to combat the spread of dengue fever.

Boyd Cerro, regional sentinel nurse, said the DOH directive, issued by Health Secretary Francisco Duque, was an indication that the health department would want to ensure that number of dengue cases would be contained before it reaches an outbreak level.

He said that all government-run hospitals in Eastern Visayas have an "express lane" for persons inflicted with dengue fever. Private hospitals in the region were also encouraged to give priority to those who show symptoms of the disease," Cerro said.

The symptoms of dengue fever include high-fever, muscle and joint pains, rashes and severe headaches. The disease could prove fatal if not given proper medication on time.

Desiree Caluza and Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon; Romulo Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

New BCDA exec appointed to oversee ₱21-B project

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Bases Conversion Development Authority has not suspended or investigated one of its top officials accused of receiving "advance commissions" from firms wanting to get sub-contracts in the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP).

The most that the BCDA did was appoint Isaac Puno, the agency's executive vice president, as SCTEP's executive director, apparently to take a direct handle on Antonio Rex Chan, BCDA vice president for operations and SCTEP program director.

Leilani Macasaet, BCDA information officer, and Chan confirmed Puno's new task, which he assumed this month.

Chan said he found nothing unusual with the creation of that new post or having Puno in that post.

"He has been handling that job. The change only comes in the job description. He is my boss anyway and I actually report to him," Chan said in a text message.

Macasaet said Chan has not been relieved from any of his posts.

"There has been no formal complaint filed against Mr. Chan," Macasaet said.

Chan said he remained the program director of the P21-billion SCTEP, a major infrastructure project of the Arroyo administration, which was suffering delays as a result of controversies in the BCDA.

The 94-km highway links the Subic Bay Freeport in Bataan and Zambales, Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and Tarlac, and the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A group of contractors, in a letter on Aug. 24, said Chan allegedly collected between P1 million and P5 million from each firm. A list of at least 12 companies that agreed to pay up but never got projects was given to the INQUIRER.

Chan had denied the allegation, saying it was part of a campaign to ease him out of the agency that he has worked for since 1992.

He said he did not endorse any local contractor to the two Japanese joint ventures. Congressmen, mayors and BCDA president Narciso Abaya made the endorsements, Chan said.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Camarines Sur gov sees Japan job edge

CAMARINES SUR Gov. Lray Villafuerte said nurses from his province and the rest of the Bicol region are in a better position than their colleagues from other areas in the country in getting jobs in Japan.

Villafuerte made this statement after the recent signing of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) which allows, among others, the deployment of 400 to 500 Filipino nurses to Japan every year.

Camarines Sur is the first and only LGU that offers free level III and IV Nihongo classes to applicants for nursing and caregiving jobs.

"Whether we like it or not, there is a limit to the number of Filipino nurses that can be deployed to Japan every year. Since most of our nurses have undergone Nihongo classes, they already have an edge as they now possess the necessary communication skills," Villafuerte added in his statement.

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WHY LADLAD?

Because gay lawmakers won't ...

By Jerome Aning

IF ONLY GAY LAWMAKERS IN CONGRESS had come out and openly pressed for the rights of members of the "third sex," the Ang Ladlad organization would not be seeking representation through the party-list election in the first place.

Ang Ladlad chair Danto Remoto bared this sentiment yesterday as he and about a dozen colleagues filed a petition before the Commission on Elections seeking to accredit their organization under the party-list system.

"We're not represented in Congress because those who are gay in the Senate or the House of Representatives would never admit that they are gay and fight for us. So the time is ripe for us to run as a party-list," Remoto said.

Remoto, an English professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, wore a pink barong and was flanked by Ang Ladlad members carrying a multicolored "pride flag" when he entered Comelec to file the petition.

"The registration papers I'm going to file present proof that there are many of us. We are here and we will never lose our voice again," he declared.

ANG LADLAD chair Danton Remoto arrives at the Comelec's office in Intramuros, Manila, Friday to file their application for accreditation as party-list organization. REM ZAMORA

Comelec education and information division director James Arthur Jimenez said Ang Ladlad would face no hurdle in being approved if it was able to show proof that it represented a sector and its interests.

Accredited groups have between Jan. 15 and Feb. 12 next year to file their intent to participate in the May 14 elections by nominating possible representatives to the House of Representatives.

Under the party-list law, a group needs at least only 2 percent of the total votes cast to win a seat in the House.

"Getting the 800,000 votes is easy if only gays would unite. And if all those 4.3 million gays vote for Ang Ladlad, we'll surely get [the maximum allotment of] three party-list seats," Remoto added.

If it wins, Ang Ladlad would principally work for the end of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and "transgendered" (LGBT) people, Remote said.

He estimated that of the 4.3 million registered voters nationwide, as much as 10 percent belong to the LGBT group. However, only a small percent were actually "out" or open about their gender orientation, he added.

According to Remoto, Ladlad had about 2,200 registered members coming from Abra to Davao. The members include beauty parlor owners and workers, same-sex marriage proponents, transsexual societies and gay writers clubs.

Ang Ladlad is seeking equal rights and not special rights for the LBGT community, he said.

NO PRESS FREEDOM

160 NGOs boycott Singapore conference

BATAM, INDONESIA—More than 160 nongovernment groups on Friday declared a boycott of IMF and World Bank meetings in Singapore to protest a clampdown on free speech and the banning of activists.

A PROTESTER wears a mask at a demonstration Friday in an indoor protest area at the IMF-WB meetings in Singapore. REUTERS

"In solidarity with those denied entry into Singapore and denied the exercise of their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and association, we will stay away from all meetings and seminars at the World Bank and IMF 2006 annual meetings in Singapore," the 164 organizations said in a statement.

"We call on all social movements, civil society organizations and networks and individuals to uphold the rights of peoples to freedom of expression and association, and to honor this boycott by staying away from the official meetings in Singapore."

The statement came on the sidelines of the International People's Forum Against the IMF and World Bank which began Friday on the Indonesian island of Batam, about an hour by boat from Singapore. About 500 people are attending.

Activists staged the forum on Batam after the Singapore government refused to waive a long-standing ban on outdoor protests for accredited groups during the Sept. 19-20 International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings.

"In order to stifle dissent and any possible protests at the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings, the Singapore government has resorted to draconian security measures," the statement said.

Singapore police said they had taken the tough security measures because the country, Southeast Asia's most advanced economy, is a high-profile "terrorist" target and any public protests would compromise preparations.

World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz said Singapore had agreed to reassess whether 27 of the hundreds of activists accredited for the World Bank and IMF meetings should be admitted.

But he said Singapore had inflicted "enormous damage" to its own reputation because of its reluctance to admit the people who were already accredited by the Bank and IMF to attend the meetings.

Late Friday, Singapore finally allowed 22 of the 27 banned activists to attend the World Bank-IMF meetings after it received "input" from the two institutions, which had strenuously protested the move to disallow their participation.

The Batam forum is being held indoors at a sprawling complex used to house pilgrims going to Mecca for the annual haj pilgrimage, as well as for religious conferences.

Organizers said they were negotiating with police to allow them a brief outdoor march when the event ends on Sunday.

The NGOs did not spare the World Bank and IMF from their criticism, saying the two Washington-based lenders knew of the city-state's strict laws against public gatherings when they planned the meetings.

"These institutions are most comfortable in countries without respect for civil liberties and human rights," said Sameer Dossani of the nongovernment group 50 Years is Enough.

Both institutions "could not have been in the dark about Singapore's track record when they chose it," Dossani said.

"Our boycott is a response to egregious hypocrisy," said Ana Maria Nemenzo, president of the Philippine-based Freedom From Debt Coalition. *AFP*

Fight global warning with pollution?

WASHINGTON—TO STALL global warming for 20 years, one climate scientist on Thursday proposed lobbing sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere, which would work in concert with cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

The sulfur dioxide, a pollutant on Earth, would form sulfate aerosol particles to shade the planet, much as the ash clouds from a major volcanic eruption do, said Tom Wigley of the US National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Wigley used computer models to determine that injecting sulfate particles at intervals from one to four years would have about the same cooling power as the 1991 eruption on Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

His research, published in the journal Science, indicates this approach would work together with cutting emissions of greenhouse gases, which are produced by the burning of fossil fuels.

The idea of injecting sulfates into the stratosphere, some 16 km above the Earth's surface, was first proposed and quickly rejected three decades ago as a dangerous tinkering with natural processes.

But Wigley said he was prompted to pursue this angle when Paul Crutzen, a Nobel-winning atmospheric chemist, recently suggested a new look at the notion of geoengineering, as this notion is known.

"I'm not suggesting we don't reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for energy," Wigley said in a telephone interview.

"I think that that's the only long-term solution to the problem of global warming, we definitely have to do that.

"But ... can we make it economically and technologically easier by doing something that's also technology, which may be cost-effective?"

It would not be cheap, according to Wigley's estimates.

The most sensible way to get sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere would be to send numerous planes—more than the world's current commercial airline fleet—to take it there. *Reuters*

Congratulations sa mga nanalo sa Globe Kantabataan Raffle Promo!

Globe kantabataan

WEEK 1 WINNERS (Draw Date: August 15)

Graiziel Reyes (Cabanatuan)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Japhet Torredes (Tagbilaran)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Nathanael Yague (Bacoor)	₱5,000 GCash
Krislou Castillo (Santa Fe)	₱5,000 GCash
Mary Jane Cruz (Calamba)	₱5,000 GCash

WEEK 2 WINNERS (Draw Date: August 22)

Ana Bueno (Los Baños)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Ma. Mayrette Panaligan (Calamba)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Villa Sadol (Makati)	₱5,000 GCash
Vivian Castillo (Calamba)	₱5,000 GCash
Ronald Alan Co (Manila)	₱5,000 GCash

WEEK 3 WINNERS (Draw Date: August 29)

Ted Andrei Melendres (Cabuyao)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Ma. Mayrette Panaligan (Calamba)	Sony Ericsson K508i
Jane Macarandan (Tagbilaran)	₱5,000 GCash
Ma. Teresa Quines (Cabanatuan)	₱5,000 GCash
Karl Razada (Tagbilaran)	₱5,000 GCash

GRAND DRAW WINNERS (Draw Date: August 29)

Ronald Alan Co (Manila)	₱50,000 GCash
Ma. Carmen Reyes (Cabanatuan)	Sony Ericsson W800i
Villa Sadol (Makati)	Sony Ericsson W800i
Melody Faith Trigo (Tagbilaran)	₱10,000 GCash
Gerardo Libaton (Tagbilaran)	₱10,000 GCash
Marissa Rodriguez (Calamba)	₱10,000 GCash
Eduardo Bueno Jr. (Los Baños)	₱10,000 GCash
Andrei Panaligan (Calamba)	₱10,000 GCash

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Rescue teams stop man from jumping off billboard

By DJ Yap and Raffy Lerma

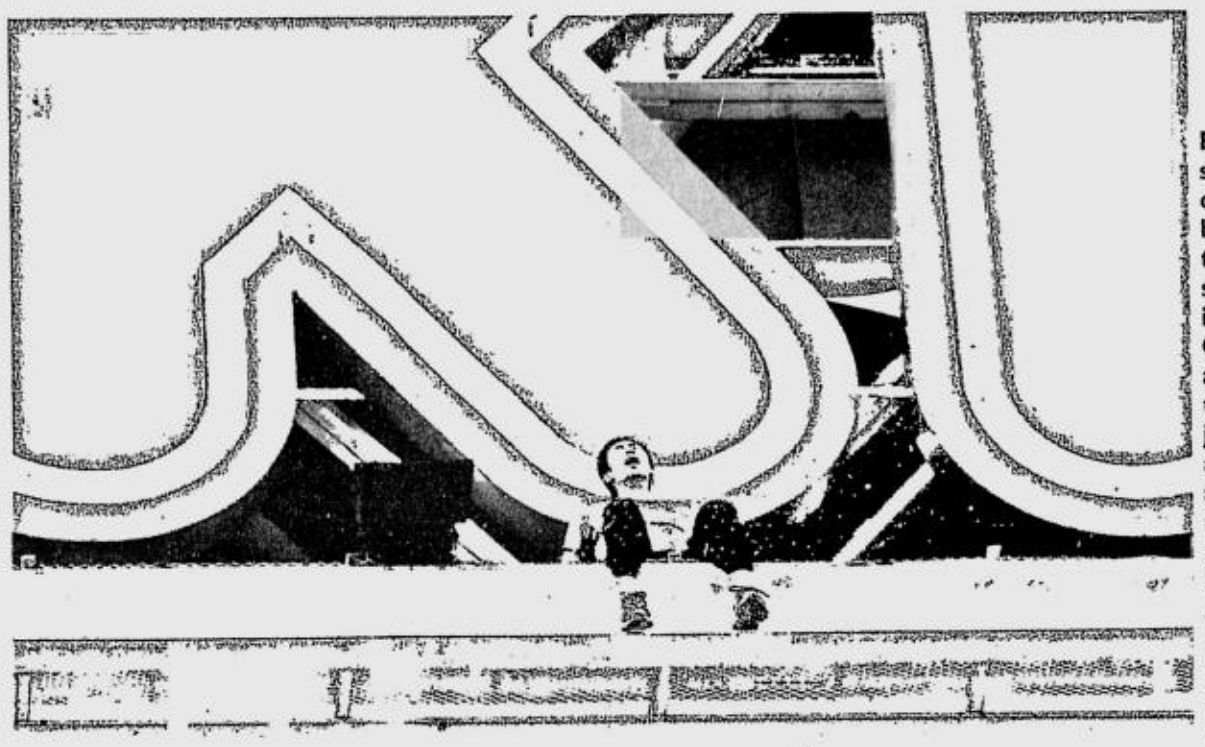
A 31-YEAR-OLD MAN THREATENED TO jump off a 100-foot billboard on top of a supermarket on Edsa in Quezon City yesterday morning, causing a traffic jam on the busy thoroughfare.

The man, apparently bothered by personal problems, was later brought down by the rescue team. Identified as Bong Abuda of Oliveros Drive, Balintawak, the man climbed the steel railings of a billboard on top of the Makro supermarket near Main Avenue, Cubao at about 7:30 a.m. A security guard called for police assistance.

Philippine Army soldiers and Philippine National Police rescue teams from nearby Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame together with firefighters came and laid out inflated mats to break Abuda's fall if he decided to jump. Two firefighters climbed the steel railings and gave Abuda a bottle of water and two-way radio to communicate with rescuers.

The police said Abuda quarreled with his wife and slipped past security guards to climb the billboard. Watchmen said they mistook him for a maintenance man. "We did not really question him about why he did it because we knew it was a personal matter and we respected his privacy," Cubao Police station commander Supt. Bernabe Balba said.

Balba said Abuda, who said he was a consultant for a firm, seemed well-off and did not fit the profile of jumpers.



Bong Abuda sits at the base of a 100-foot billboard of the Makro supermarket in Cubao, Quezon City, after he threatened to jump off, attracting the attention of passersby. A rescue team brought down Abuda from his perch after his wife arrived on the scene.

RAFFY LERMA

10 cops in trader's kidnap charged

Accused demanded P3M for victim's freedom, says SPD

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SOUTHERN POLICE DISTRICT yesterday filed kidnapping with serious illegal detention charges against 10 policemen from its anti-narcotics team who had been relieved of their posts early this week for allegedly extorting money from a Japanese businessman.

Charged were Supt. Perfecto Marin, SPD Special Operations Task Force Intelligence officer; Chief Insp. Tito Oraya, District Anti-Illegal Drugs action officer; Chief Insp. Vicente Raquion and team members SPO1 Delfin Macario, PO3 Rodolfo Garcia, P03 Felix Mayuga, P03 Cirilo Zamora, P02 Dionisio Gastanes Jr., P02 Roberto Jovenir and P02 Bernardo Cobero. Two Japanese nationals—Katayama Noriaki and Yoshinari Yoshizumi—and Valentino Cortez were also charged with the same offense.

Supt. Michel Filart, chief of the SPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Group filed the complaint in the office of Pasay City Prosecutor Elmer Mitra following an inquiry into Masayuki Suzuki's accusation that the policemen extorted P3 million from him after he was arrested at a Pasay City motel on Sept. 8 in what was supposedly a test-buy operation. "Our investigation showed the accused were not acting as policemen but as private individuals when they conducted the operation," Filart told the INQUIRER.

Suzuki, who arrived from Japan in Sept. 3, said in his affidavit that Cortez met him at his Makati City hotel at around 10 p.m. on Sept. 8 and proceeded to the Marina Royal Drive-Inn motel together with an unidentified man who allegedly invited the pair to join them in a shabu session.

The accused policemen then reportedly barged in, confiscated the shabu and later took the victim to the District Intelligence and Investigation office at SPD headquarters in Taguig City

Noriaki, a friend of the complainant, arrived at the station with Yoshizuki to help Suzuki negotiate with the policemen for his release.

The policemen the allegedly asked for P3 million in exchange for Suzuki's freedom.

The officers also promised not to file any criminal charges against him, the complainant said.

Suzuki said he raised the money by making an offshore transaction in Japan using his cell phone.

After the policemen claimed the cash the next day at a Makati apartment, the businessman said he was released.

DOH says dengue situation 'relatively good'

By Jerome Aning

HEALTH SECRETARY FRANCISCO Duque III yesterday allayed fears of a dengue epidemic, saying the numbers of cases nationwide were "relatively good," compared to figures last year.

Duque said only 14,915 cases were registered from Jan. 1-Sept. 9, representing a 58 percent decrease from last year's 25,680. So far, only 188 deaths were recorded, almost half of the 316 for the same period last year.

"The figures are relatively good compared to last year. Our problem really is the clustered outbreaks in some places, but in some areas the rate of infection is already declining," Duque said in a press conference.

The secretary said the weather, particularly alternating rainy and hot climates, was a major reason for the increase in population of the Aedes aegypti mosquito, carrier of the dengue virus. He said stagnant water in unattended containers often became mosquito breeding grounds.

Following past trends, dengue cases would start to drop by October as the monsoon season ended, Duque added.

The secretary advised the public to follow the DOH's Four-S campaign against dengue.

Four-S stands for search and destroy breeding sites, self-protection measures, seeking early treatment and saying "No" to indiscriminate fogging.

Meanwhile, Ricardo Lustre director of the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center in Marikina City told the INQUIRER, that they recorded more dengue cases this year compared to last year.

The hospital also accepts patients from Quezon City, Antipolo City and other towns in Rizal. The number of cases at the hospital rose to 105 in July, then to 117 in August, Lustre added.

With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NCRPO says media slay cases in Metro 'solved'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Police Office (NCRPO) seems to have beat the deadline set by President Macapagal-Arroyo to solve cases of political and media killings in Metro Manila.

NCRPO Director Gen. Reynaldo Varilla announced yesterday that his office has solved four cases with the arrest of six suspects and the filing of the cases against the suspects in the courts. The cases the office considered solved were the murder of Alberto Orsolino, a news reporter assigned at the Northern Police District and the killing of tabloid reporter Prudencio Melendres, RPN-9 cameraman Ralph Nunez and Rodolfo Paglinawan, counsel for Purefoods Manufacturing Corp. in Marikina City.

Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon directed his men last month to solve one case and make one arrest per region before the end of the month. "With the arrest of the suspects, we can show human rights advocates and the international community that the government is serious in solving these killings," Varilla said in a statement yesterday.

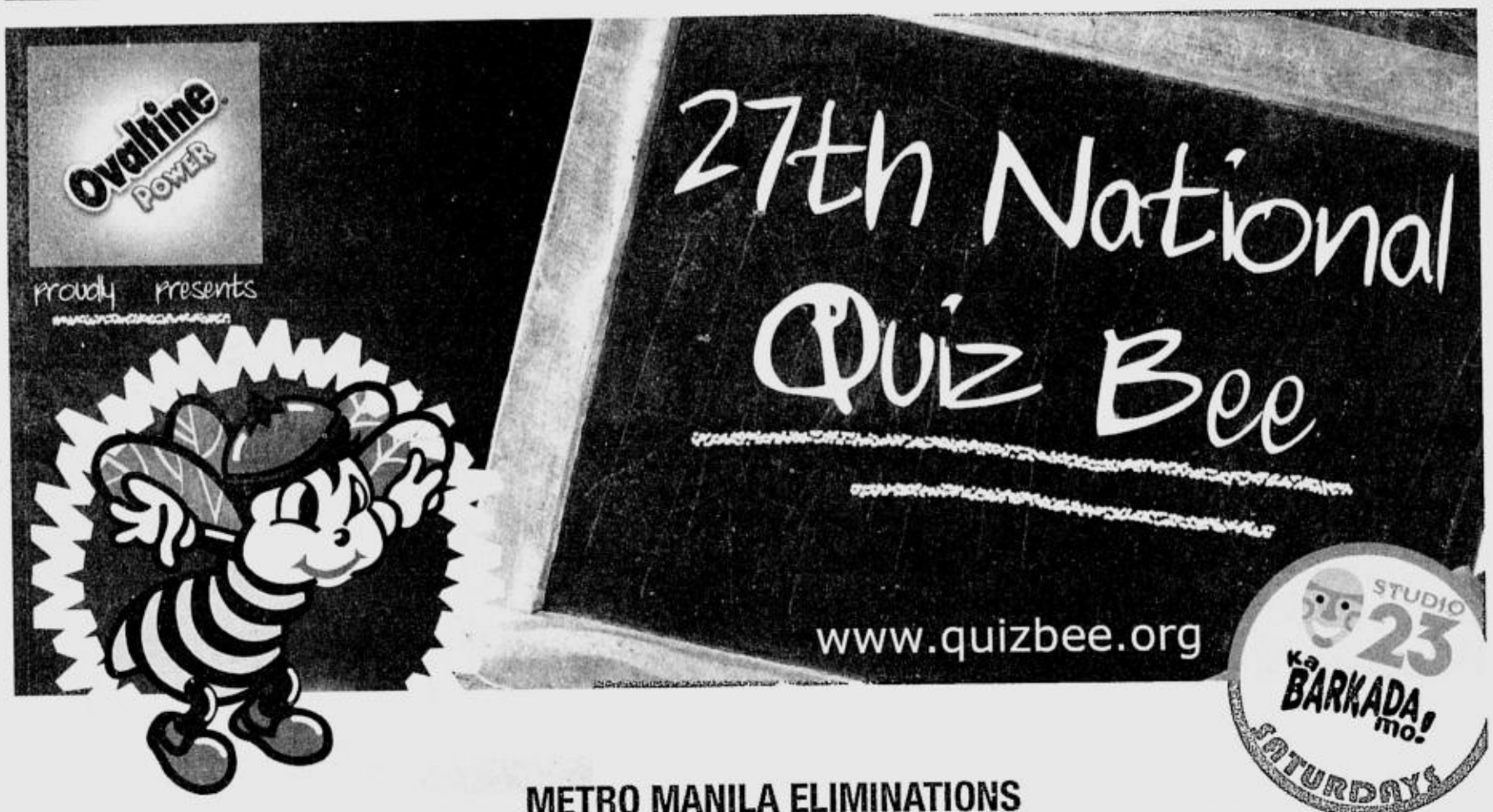
METROBRIEFS

Show of support

TWO DAYS after Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay bared an alleged government plot to suspend him, thousands of Makati City residents trooped to City Hall yesterday morning in a show of support. Senior citizens, which made up the bulk of the crowd, were one in praising the mayor "who takes care of us very well and has been generous in his help." "The mayor claimed that after the suspension of Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad, he was next on the list of opposition figures to be suspended as part of Malacañang's efforts to muzzle anti-administration politicians. Also present in yesterday's assembly were known opposition figures, including former Social Welfare Sec. Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, the Black and White Movement's Leah Navarro, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. and Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

2 Pasay officials relieved

ACTING Pasay City Mayor Allan Panaligan yesterday relieved city administrator Tina Carbajal and city legal officer Phil Ramos, two City Hall appointees of suspended Mayor Weceslao "Peewee" Trinidad. Panaligan appointed lawyer Sonny Quail to Carbajal's post but no replacement for Ramos had been named yet. Panaligan told the INQUIRER that he wanted to work with people who had his trust and confidence. Following the order, Carbajal said she filed a petition with the Pasay Regional Trial Court to prevent her relief, citing a previous Civil Service Commission ruling that an acting mayor could not replace a city administrator. "Trinidad's term has not yet ended. But I will just wait for the court's decision," Carbajal told the INQUIRER yesterday. *Jocelyn R. Uy*



METRO MANILA ELIMINATIONS

CONTEST	COMPETITION DATE	VENUE	TELECAST DATES
Division Championships Manila & Pasay City	Sat., Sep. 2	World Trade Center	Oct. 7 Part 1 Oct. 14 Part 2
Quezon City & Makati City	Sat, Sep 16	Market Market	Oct. 21 Part 1 Oct. 28 Part 2
Caloocan City & Valenzuela, Malabon & Navotas	Sat, Sep 30	SM North Edsa	Nov. 4 Part 1 Nov. 11 Part 2
Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Paranaque & Las Pinas	Sat, Oct 14	Festival Mall	Nov. 18 Part 1 Nov. 25 Part 2
Pasig, Marikina, San Juan, & Mandaluyong City	Sat, Oct 28	Robinsons Galleria	Dec. 2 Part 1 Dec. 9 Part 2
Metro Manila Regional Finals	Sat, Nov 11	SM Mall of Asia	Dec. 16 Part 1 Dec. 23 Part 2

NATIONWIDE ELIMINATIONS
School Eliminations (Jul 1 – Aug 31)
District Eliminations (Sep 1 – 30)
Division Eliminations (Oct 1- 15)
Regional Eliminations (Oct 16 - 31)
Summit of the Super Quiz Bee (Nov 30 – Dec. 3)
National Grand Finals (Dec 2)

NATIONAL QUIZ BEE SUMMIT
November 30 to December 3, 2006

NATIONAL GRAND FINALS
Philam Life Theater
December 2, 2006
Saturday
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Manila

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Democratic space abused

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE ACCUSATION of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. that some party-list representatives are enemies of the state is valid.

Some party-list groups have not shed their revolutionary fervor and still want the violent overthrow of the government. A big chunk of the pork barrel of these party-list groups ends up with the rebels.

* * *

Since communism has been made legal, some of its adherents are now in Congress.

But instead of espousing their cause in a marketplace of ideas, like the House of Representatives, a number of these party-list congressmen still extend their left hand to the armed movement. They have abused the hospitality of the democratic government by still wishing its violent overthrow.

* * *

Supposing you extended a hand of friendship or reconciliation to a former enemy . You showed your sincerity to your erstwhile enemy by allowing him the use of your house.

But the guy continued to harbor ill feelings toward you and still wanted you dead. Would you still consider him a friend or an enemy? Of course, you would be wary of him.

That's what General Esperon meant when he said that some party- list congressmen, like Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño, are enemies of the state hiding behind the legitimate cover of their organization.

* * *

I am not justifying the killing of some members of leftist organizations, like Bayan Muna, by some people in the military.

You should consider that the New People's Army (NPA) is waging an unconventional war against the government. This war is not played by the rules.

Since the government is bound by the rules, some officers in the military have taken it upon themselves to fight the NPA at its own game.

That's why the problem of extrajudicial killings has cropped up. It's not sanctioned by the government, but some government people could be behind those killings.

Or maybe the NPAs killed some of their own who had committed grave offenses against the movement. The government, of course, is the natural and convenient suspect.

Remember, the NPAs executed what they considered their erring members in a mass purge a couple of years ago. Aren't they capable of doing that now?

* * *

I apologize to the Philippine Marine Corps for that comment in this space that the death of six Marines in one battle—a big number for a veteran fighting unit—was caused by demoralization in the ranks.

I didn't know that the Marines who engaged Abu Sayyaf terrorists in a fierce battle in Patikul, Sulu, were greatly outnumbered. And yet the Marines, true to their reputation, fought on despite the overwhelming odds.

That column was not meant to denigrate the military's "fightingest" and proudest group. I have always admired the Marines for their bravery in combat. If I had become a soldier, I would have joined the Marines.

* * *

To those who have sent their sympathy and support to me and my brothers Erwin and Raffy, thank you very much. We will not be cowed, especially now that we have your moral support. For evil to triumph, good men need only to do nothing.

I'm not saying my brothers and I are angels; but neither are we demons as our detractors are trying to portray us. I thank First Gentleman Mike Arroyo for giving me the chance to discover my true self.

Algeria terror group joins al-Qaida, targets France

PARIS—AL-QAIDA HAS FOR THE first time announced a union with an Algerian insurgent group that has designated France as an enemy, and has vowed they will act together against French and American interests.

Current and former French officials specializing in terrorism said an al-Qaida alliance with the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, known by its French initials GSPC, was cause for concern.

"We take these threats very seriously," Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said, adding in an interview on France-2 television that the threat to France was "high" and "permanent," and that "absolute vigilance" was required.

Al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, announced the "blessed union" with the Algerian insurgency movement in a video posted this week on the Internet to mark the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

French officials have long regarded the GSPC as one of the main potential terror threats for France. But French experts also noted that the group has been severely weakened by internal divisions, army crackdowns and combatants' defections in Algeria, a former French territory still working to put down an Islamic insurgency that reached its most murderous heights in the 1990s.

"The GSPC is losing speed and has suffered very significant losses in recent months," said Louis Caprioli, former assistant director of France's DST counterterrorism and counterintelligence agency.

Some GSPC fighters took advantage of a recent Algerian amnesty for Islamic insurgents; others have been killed, said Caprioli, who now works for Geos, a risk management firm. Of the 800 combatants it was said to have had last year, probably no more than 500 remain, and the GSPC has had no operational cells in France since the late 1990s, he added.

But he and others also said that an alliance of GSPC and al-Qaida could increase the terror risk for France—not least because al-Zawahri designated the country as a worthy target. Caprioli said such a union could inspire Algerian former militants in Europe to action and that there was also a risk of GSPC militants fleeing Algeria and shifting here to prepare terror attacks.

In his video, Al-Zawahri hailed "the joining up" of the GSPC with al-Qaida as "good news."

"All the praise is due to Allah for the blessed union which we ask Allah to be as a bone in the throats of the Americans and French Crusaders and their allies, and inspire distress, concern and dejection in the hearts of the traitorous, apostate sons of France," he said.

"We ask him (Allah) to guide our brothers in the Salafist Group for Call and Combat to crush the pillars of the Crusader alliance, especially their elderly immoral leader, America." *AP*

Puzzling giant planet discovered

WASHINGTON—SCIENTISTS said on Thursday they have spotted an unusually large and light planet orbiting a distant star—a discovery that could force them to reexamine theories about how planets are formed.

"We have discovered a very bizarre new object," research astrophysicist Robert Noyes said at a news conference. "The people who do theoretical models are left scratching their heads as to what's going on." The planet, dubbed HAT-P-1, is the largest planet ever detected, roughly one-third larger in diameter than Jupiter, but only weighs half as much, astronomers with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Harvard University said.

Unlike Jupiter, Saturn and other "gas giants," this planet does not have a solid core, they said.

It is extremely close to its parent star, one-seventh of the distance between Mercury and the Sun, and it makes a complete orbit once every 4.5 days.

What is puzzling scientists is that the planet is larger than predicted by current theories.

The large size could be the result of heat coming from the interior of the planet but scientists have yet to determine how that could happen, Noyes said.

Scientists found the planet because light from the star dims when the planet passes in front of it.

The star, one of a double-star system, is about 450 light-years from Earth. *Reuters*

FIRST BOY IN FOUR DECADES
Japan's Princess Kiko (right) and her husband Prince Akishino smile as they leave a Tokyo hospital with their newborn son Prince Hisahito in Tokyo Sept. 15. Prince Hisahito is the first boy to be born into Japan's imperial family in nearly 41 years. REUTERS

Bush faces Senate rebellion over rights of terror suspects

WASHINGTON—A SENATE COMmittee rebelled against President George W. Bush on Thursday, passing a bill it said would protect the rights of foreign terrorism suspects and repair a US image damaged by harsh treatment of detainees.

Hours after Bush went to Capitol Hill to urge fellow Republicans to back his proposals for putting terrorism suspects on trial, a divided Senate Armed Services Committee approved its own bill which it said would meet demands of the US Supreme Court that struck down Bush's original plan.

The committee also resisted Bush's bid to more narrowly define the Geneva Conventions' standards for humane treatment of prisoners, which Bush said was essential to enable the CIA to elicit valuable information from detainees.

Bush has been under fire for indefinite detentions and harsh treatment of foreign suspects at Guantanamo Bay as well as abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. Human rights groups say mistreatment of prisoners has damaged US moral standing.

Some lawmakers say they fear the practices put American soldiers at greater risk of harm or abuse if they are captured in conflicts overseas.

The bill—pushed by chair John Warner of Virginia and fellow Republican heavyweights John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina—cleared the committee 15-9 with support from Democrats and Maine Republican Susan Collins. *Reuters*

Bush's reversals in war on terror

SOME OTHER AREAS IN WHICH the Bush administration's war on terrorism has been dealt setbacks:

• Military tribunals. The Supreme Court in June rejected as illegal the military tribunal system set up by the Bush administration to try Guantanamo prisoners, most of whom were captured in Afghanistan. The court said the tribunals—an alternative legal system—lacked congressional authorization and did not meet US military or international justice standards.

• Domestic surveillance. After the Sept. 11 attacks, Bush directed the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on international phone calls and e-mails of US citizens without obtaining a warrant when in pursuit of suspected terrorists. But a federal judge in Detroit this year ruled the program illegal. Bush has appealed.

• CIA terrorism detention program Bush this month publicly acknowledged the CIA had held high-level terrorism suspects, including alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, in secret overseas locations. He announced Mohammed and 13 others were transferred recently to the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center run by the Pentagon to be prosecuted in the future. *Reuters*

Chief judge tells Saddam: You are not a dictator

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THE CHIEF judge in the genocide trial of Saddam Hussein assured the defendant on Thursday that he was "not a dictator," a day after a court prosecutor demanded the judge be removed for showing bias toward Saddam and letting him harangue witnesses.

One witness, a Kurdish farmer, testified that in 1988 he had pleaded with Saddam for the life of his wife and seven young children. He said a furious Saddam shouted, "Shut up and get out."

In court, Saddam jumped up to defend himself.

"Why did he try to see Saddam Hussein?" he asked the judge, referring to himself in the third person, as is his habit in court. "Wasn't Saddam a dictator and an enemy to the Kurdish people, as they say?"

The judge replied: "I will answer you: You are not a dictator. Not a dictator," he repeated. "You were not a dictator."

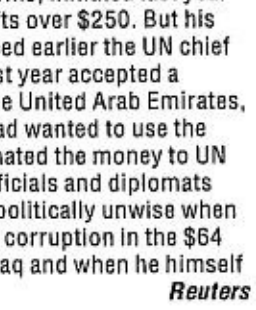
Saddam, smiling, replied, "Thank you."

The judge said, "The people or those who are around the official make him a dictator, and it is not just you. This is the case all over the world." The judge, Abdullah al-Amiri, is a Shiite who had served as a judge in Saddam's government.

Saddam and six other former high-ranking officials are charged in connection with the killing of at least 50,000 Kurds, including many in chemical weapon strikes in a 1988 military campaign to eliminate them from the mountainous parts of Iraq's far northeast. *New York Times*

WORLDBRIEFS

Carter: Blair failed to moderate US policy



CARTER REUTERS

LONDON—Former US President Jimmy Carter accused British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday of simply copying US foreign policies instead of acting as a moderating influence. "I have been really disappointed in the apparent subservience of the British government's policies related to many of the serious mistakes that have been originated in Washington," Carter told the BBC's Newsnight program. Carter, a Democrat who was president from 1977 to 1981, cited Britain's stance alongside Washington during the recent war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon and its participation in the US-led 2003 invasion of Iraq. He said there had been some reports Blair had tried behind the scenes to influence US President George W. Bush but, if true, it had been to no avail. Carter, who now tours the world promoting peace through his foundation, said Britain had acted as a moderating influence in the past through the so-called special relationship between the two countries but this was no longer the case. "This time no matter what kind of radical or ill-advised policy is proposed from the White House it seems to me that almost automatically the government of Great Britain would adopt the same policy," said Carter. *Reuters*

Annan declines to submit his finances

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has declined to submit personal financial disclosure forms despite urgings by top aides he do so at a time the world body is undergoing reforms, UN officials said on Thursday. Technically, Annan is not considered a staff member and does not have to fill out the new forms, initiated last year to tighten staff rules, including the receipt of gifts over $250. But his spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, had announced earlier the UN chief would be the first to fill out the forms. Annan last year accepted a $500,000 environmental prize, sponsored by the United Arab Emirates, despite criticism it could be seen as a gift. He had wanted to use the fund for a new foundation in Africa but later donated the money to UN humanitarian assistance in Darfur. Some UN officials and diplomats said Annan's decision to accept the award was politically unwise when the world body was recovering from charges of corruption in the $64 billion oil-for-food humanitarian program for Iraq and when he himself was in the forefront of initiating reforms. *Reuters*

Japan cult guru's death sentence finalized

ASAHARA AFP

TOKYO—Japan's Supreme Court on Friday finalized the death sentence on Shoko Asahara, the founder of the doomsday cult that attacked the Tokyo subway in 1995, throwing out his last appeal, media reports said. The guru's lawyers had missed a deadline more than a year ago to submit an appeal to his death sentence, arguing that Asahara was mentally unfit and only mumbled nonsense in meetings. But Japan's top court refused a special motion by the defense seeking to resume his appeal trial, meaning Asahara will be sent to the gallows, public broadcaster NHK and other media said. Asahara, a 51-year-old former acupuncturist, was convicted of ordering his followers to release Nazi-invented sarin gas on rush-hour trains in March 1995, leaving 12 people dead and injuring thousands more. Japan is the only major industrialized nation other than the United States to practice capital punishment, which enjoys wide public support. But Japan only executed one inmate last year and none so far this year. It has faced international criticism for giving inmates only a few hours notice before hanging them in order to ward off last-minute appeals. *AFP*

Calcium pills seen useless

PARIS—CALCIUM supplements fail to provide long-term strengthening of bones, according to a study published on Friday that touches on osteoporosis, a disease commonly facing woman after the menopause.

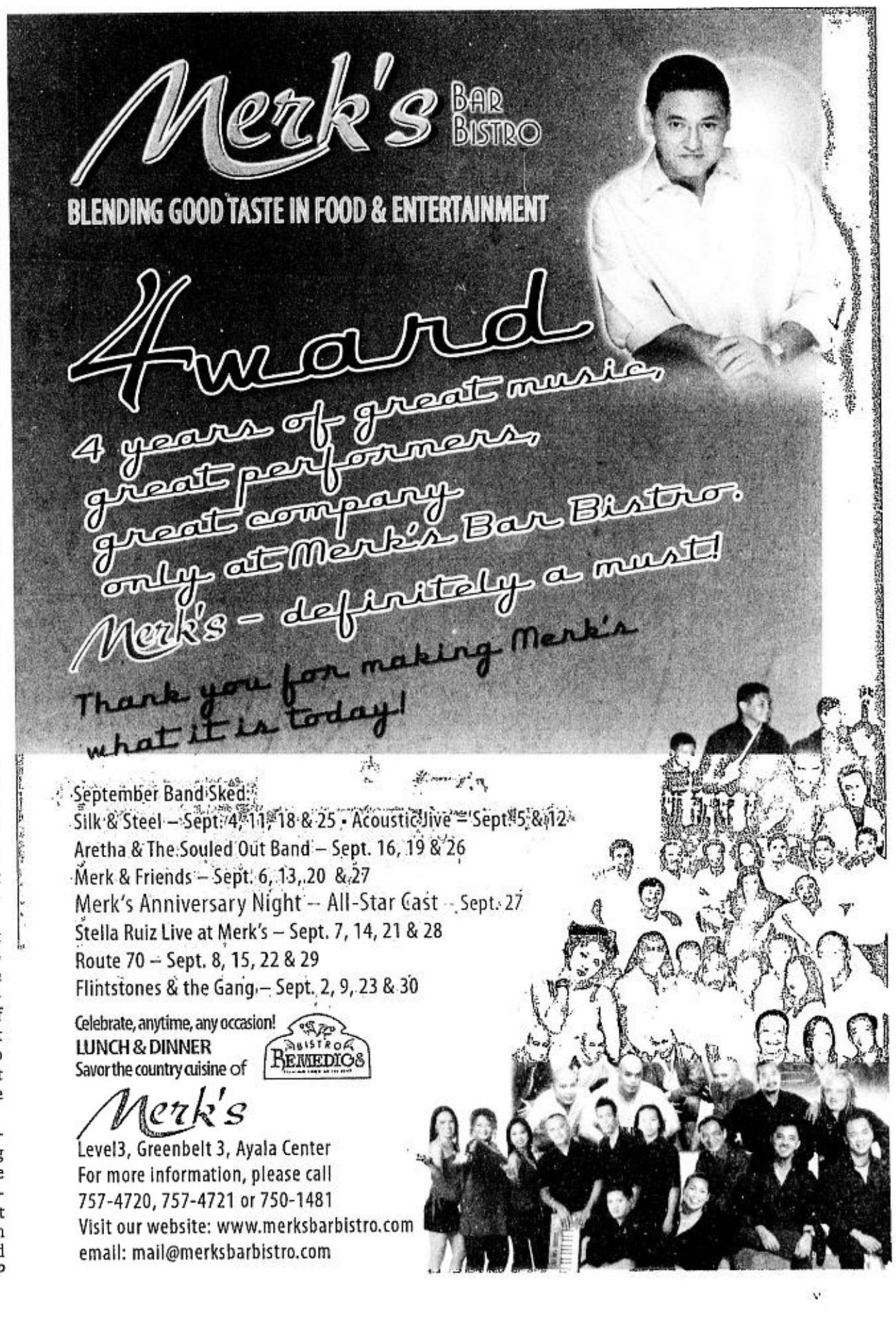
The paper, published online by the British Medical Journal (BMJ), is a review of 19 major studies that involved nearly 2,900 healthy children aged between three and 18.

They included children who were given calcium supplements for at least three months and whose bone health was then monitored more than six months afterwards.

Children taking the supplements only had 1.7-percent better bone density in their upper limbs compared to counterparts who did not take the extra calcium.

This small benefit did persist in the upper limbs, but there was no significant effect on the rest of body, particularly at sites such as the hip and lower spine that are prone to fracture later in life.

Bone density diminishes among women after the menopause, so doctors are keen to boost bone mass early in life through diet and exercise. *AFP*



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Muslims hit Pope's remarks on Islam

ROME—AS POPE BENEDICT XVI ARRIVED BACK HOME FROM Germany, Muslim leaders on Thursday strongly criticized a speech he had given using unflattering language about Islam.

Some of the strongest words came from Turkey, possibly putting in jeopardy Benedict's plan to visit there in November.

"I do not think any good will come from the visit to the Muslim world of a person who has such ideas about Islam's prophet," Ali Bardakoglu, a cleric and chief of the Turkish government's directorate of religious affairs, said in a television interview there. "He should first of all replace the grudge in his heart with moral values and respect for the other."

Muslim leaders in Pakistan, Morocco and Kuwait, in addition to some in Germany and France, were also critical, with many demanding an apology or clarification. The extent of anger about the speech may become clearer on Friday, the Muslim day of prayer, in which grievances are often vented publicly.

The remarks came on Tuesday, when Benedict delivered a major address—which some church experts say was a defining speech of his pontificate—saying the West, and specifically Europe, had become so beholden to reason that it had closed God out of public life, science and academia.

But he began that speech, at Regensburg University, with what he conceded were "brusque" words about Islam: He quoted a 14th-century Byzantine emperor as saying, "Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

The Pope also used the word jihad, or holy war, saying violence was contrary to God's nature and to reason.

POPE Benedict XVI AFP

But, at the end of a speech that did not otherwise mention Islam, he also said that reason could be the basis for "that genuine dialogue of cultures and religions so urgently needed today."

As the criticisms gathered force, the Vatican issued a statement saying the Roman Catholic Church sought to "cultivate an attitude of respect and dialogue toward other religions and cultures, and obviously also toward Islam."

But many experts on Islam warned that Benedict ran the risk of offense in using such strong language, especially with tensions between religions so high.

"I don't think the church should point a finger at extremist activities in other religions," Aiman Mazyek, president of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany, was quoted as saying in the newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung on Thursday, pointedly recalling the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition and the Vatican's relations with Nazi Germany.

Muslims also objected to another part of the lecture, in which Benedict quoted a scholar's assertion that the Muslim view of God, unlike the Christian, was not informed by the Greek-inspired western philosophical tradition of "rationality."

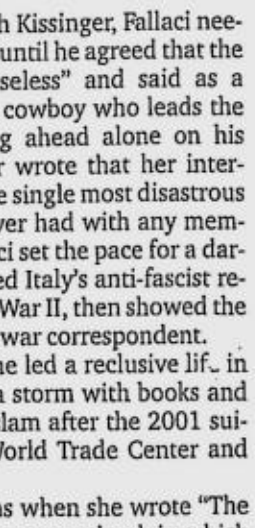
A member of the Moroccan parliament, Abdelilah Benkirane, said in Rabat that this claim was "an offense to a billion Muslims".

"We hope that the Roman Catholic Church will very quickly... clarify its position so that it does not confuse Islam, which is a revealed religion, with Islamism, which is not a religion but a political ideology," the head of the French Council for the Muslim Religion (CFCM), Dalil Boubakeur, said. *NYT, AFP*

Controversial Italian journalist Fallaci dies at 77

MILAN—ORIANA FALLACI, ONE OF ITALY'S best-known journalists and war correspondents who shocked the literary world with a vitriolic assault on Islam after the Sept.11 attacks on the United States, died on Friday aged 77.

Fallaci died in her home town of Florence after battling cancer for several years, a hospital official said.



FALLACI AFP

Aggressive and provocative until the end, Fallaci made her name as a tenacious interviewer of some of the most famous leaders of the 20th century.

They included Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

She covered wars in Vietnam, the Middle East, and Latin America at a time when few women braved the front lines, and was shot and beaten in 1968 during student demonstrations in Mexico.

In her interview with Kissinger, Fallaci needled the US statesman until he agreed that the Vietnam War was "useless" and said as a politician he was "the cowboy who leads the wagon train by riding ahead alone on his horse." Kissinger later wrote that her interview with him was "the single most disastrous conversation I have ever had with any member of the press." Fallaci set the pace for a daring life when she joined Italy's anti-fascist resistance during World War II, then showed the same fearlessness as a war correspondent.

In her later years she led a reclusive life in New York but set off a storm with books and interviews assailing Islam after the 2001 suicide attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

She divided her fans when she wrote "The Rage and the Pride," an angry book in which she described Islam as oppressive and Arab immigrants in Europe as dirty and bigoted.

In a later book, "The Force of Reason," she wrote that "terrorists" had killed 6,000 people over the past 20 years in the name of the Koran and said the Islamic faith "sows hatred in the place of love and slavery in the place of freedom." A judge in northern Italy later ordered Fallaci to stand trial on charges she defamed Islam, but the case never went to court.

Reuters

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SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ **Pagunsan-Rosales slips to 5th** /A24

EFREN "Bata" Reyes: Still in impeccable form.

Bata survives, Django falls in Jakarta 9-Ball

JAKARTA—RED-HOT FILIPINO cue master Efren "Bata" Reyes opened defense of his crown with an easy 9-5 victory over Indonesian bet Roy Apancho Friday in the Jakarta leg of the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour.

But buddy Francisco "Django" Bustamante yielded to Taiwanese Wang Hung-hsiang, 6-9, again dampening his bid for a first ever Asian tour crown.

Another Filipino, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, trumped Thai Amnuayporn Chotipong, 9-1, to keep pace with Reyes.

Bangkok champion Ramil Gallego suffered a humbling 1-9 loss to Japanese Masaaki Tanaka in a late match.

Apancho took three of the first four racks with a bold attack on Reyes' safety on the 2 in the first rack and a rack run in the second and fourth.

But Reyes finally find his groove as Apancho fouled in the fifth rack.

Showing the form that gave him the International Pool Tour 2006 World Open 8-Ball title and the P25 million that goes with it recently, Reyes came up with a 3-rack streak and moved ahead, 4-3.

The young Indonesian managed to stop the 52-year-old Reyes' romp and tie the game at 4 by taking the eighth rack via a golden break.

It was at this point that the irrepressible Reyes wove his magic. Capitalizing on a foul shot by the Indonesian on the 2-ball in the next rack, Reyes began another 3-rack run to pull away, 7-4.

Apancho managed to score only once before Reyes, showing his pocketing skills, proceeded to take the match and his first win of the group stage, 9-5.

Bustamante arrived here Thursday afternoon with compatriot and Bangkok leg champion Ramil Gallego confident that he will be performing at his best after posting an an 18-game winning streak in the IPT.

But Wang, the Ho Chi Minh leg semifinalist, displayed solid form, held on to a 7-6 lead and managed to clean out the remaining two racks to frustrate Bustamante.

The 43-year-old Bustamante, a former world No. 1, now needs to win his remaining group match against Chinese Li He-Wen to have a chance to qualify for the quarterfinals.

For information, check out www.asian9-balltour.com. or contact Diana Chan at (852) 26219641 chand@espnstar.com

Top two coaches laugh off pressure

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
8:30 a.m.—UP vs UST (Women)
10 a.m.—Ateneo vs FEU (Women)
12 noon—Adamson vs FEU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs UST (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

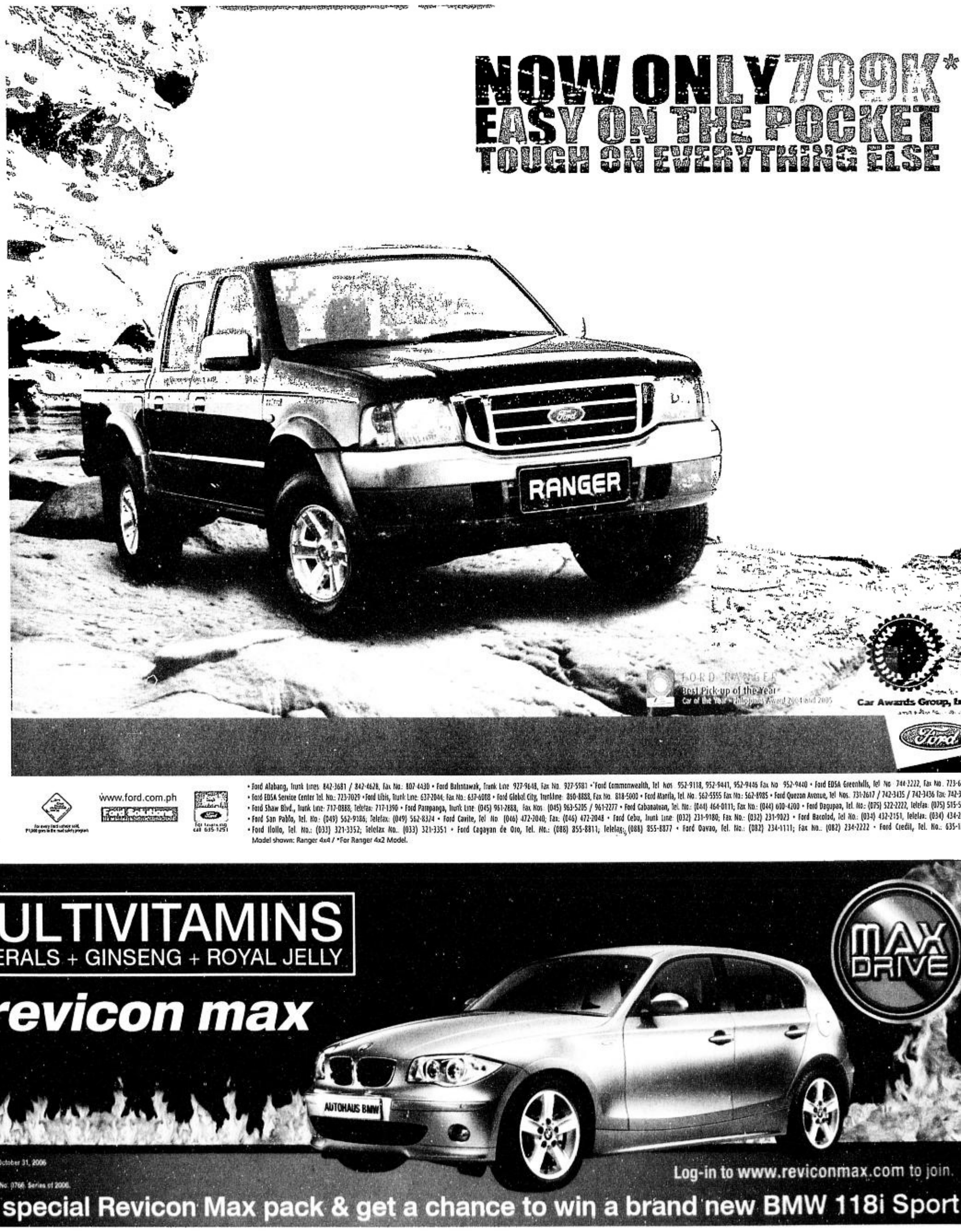
WITH THEIR VAST experience in the pro league, jitters no longer come into play for the coaches of the two top squads in the UAAP.

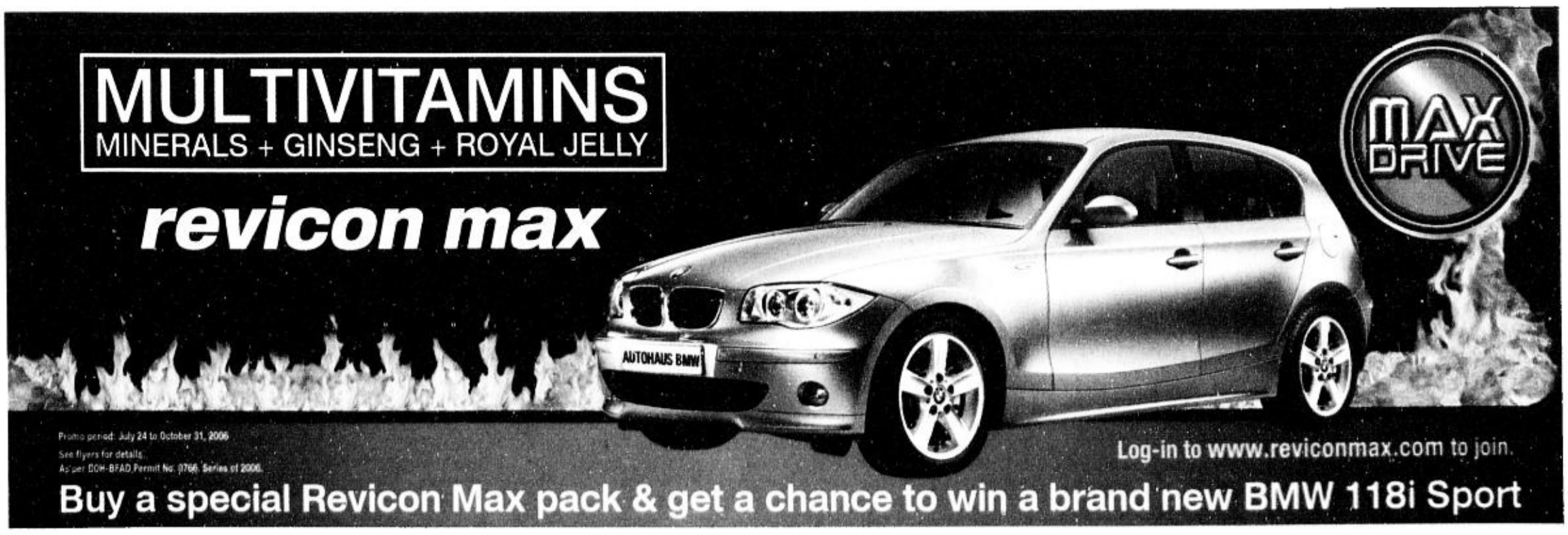
"The key for any coach to handle the pressure is to be prepared," said Ateneo mentor Norman Black. "If you can prepare your team well, if you can sell your system, if you keep them in good health and fresh for the game, you can go out and win basketball games. There's no rocket science there."

After occupying the top spot in the entire elimination round, expectations are high on the Eagles when they battle the Adamson Falcons at the start of the Final Four tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

University of the East coach Dindo Pumaren faces a similar situation when his

TOP/ A24





ROSALES

Pagunsan-Rosales slips to 5th

KUALA LUMPUR—THE PHILIPPINES' JUVIC Pagunsan and Gerald Rosales settled for a one-under-par 70 in the four-ball (better ball) format Friday and slipped to joint fifth in the World Cup Qualifier here.

The Filipinos, joint overnight leaders with the Singapore and Indian pairs, pooled 208 over three rounds at the Seri Selangor Golf Club in a tie with Finland's Mikko Maneros and Juha Pekka Peltomaki, who retured a 67.

They stood seven shots behind Singapore's Mardan Mamat and Lam Chih Bing, who combined for a near-flawless 63 Friday for a 12-under 201, going into the final round today.

Mardan, who qualified for the World Cup twice before with his partner Lam, eagled the par-5 13th hole in a display of solid putting.

India's Shiv Kapur, who is ranked sixth on the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit, and partner Gaurav Ghei fired a 66 and trailed the leaders by three strokes in second spot.

Malaysia's Danny Chia and Iain Steel were in third place at 206 as they kept their hopes alive after an equally impressive 63.

The top two teams after four rounds will qualify for the World Golf Championships-World Cup in Barbados in December.

Lam got off to a good start when he struck a birdie on the second hole followed by a similar feat by Mardan on the third and fifth holes. Lam extended their lead with a birdie on the sixth hole while Mardan's solid tee shot resulted in another birdie at the eighth hole. After Lam's birdie on the 10th hole, Mardan blasted an eagle on the par-five 544 yards 13th hole.

Italy's Emanuele Canonica and Francesco Molinari were in fourth spot as they shot a 64, six strokes off the pace.

The final round will use the foursomes (alternate shot) format.

Third round scores: 201—Singapore 65-73-63; 204—India 68-70-66; 206—Malaysia 65-78-63; 207—Italy 68-75-64; 208—Philippines 74-64-70, Finland 69-72-67; 209—Switzerland 70-74-65; 211—Hong Kong 63-78-70; Holland 73-73-65; 213—Chinese Taipei 70-75-68; 216—Pakistan 69-78-69; 219—Myanmar 72-78-69; 220—Ghana 69-79-72; 238—Mauritius 75-85-78.

PCU tactician sees tight 'NC' titular series

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EVEN SAN BEDA COACH KOY BANAL CONcedes that the Philippine Christian U's Dolphins are peaking at the right time.

Asked about the Red Lions' chances against the returning finalists, Banal instead commented on the Dolphins' sharp play of late.

"*Kayang kaya nilang lapastanganin ang depensa ng kalaban* (They are capable of treating an opponent's defense with utter disrespect)," he said Banal.

Coming from one who embraces the defense-is-the-best-offense motto, the remark speaks a lot about the real worth of the Dolphins, who won five straight games to march into the best-of-three championship series with the favored Red Lions.

But PCU coach Joel Dualan remains low-key despite his charges' impressive play in booting out defending champion Letran.

"I have a bunch of players who are not afraid of facing San Beda," said Dualan. "Even coach Louie (Alas of Letran) admitted that in the personnel department, we have an edge."

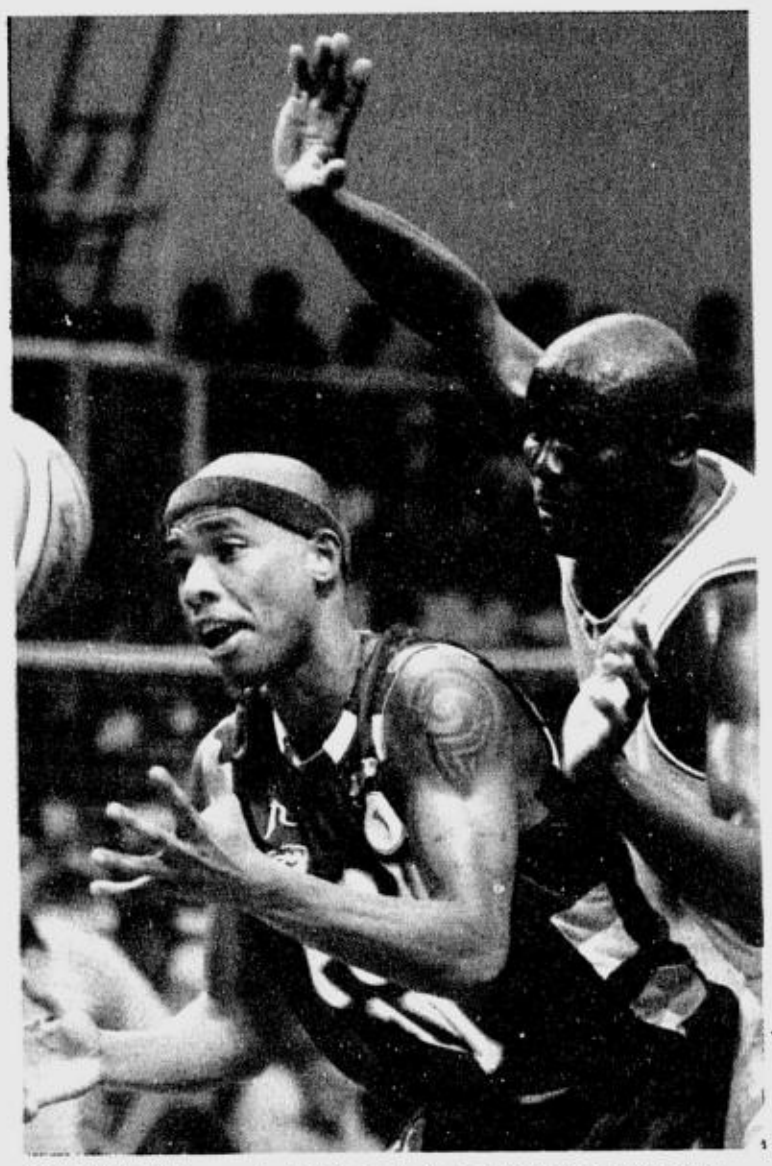
Dualan, who took over the reins from resigned mentor Junel Baculi days before the season started, said his boys are in high spirits going into the title series which begins Monday.

"Everybody is happy that we made the championship," he said. "We hope to carry this feeling into the finals."

Largely eclipsed by the headline-hogging rivalry between San Beda and Letran, PCU quietly kept within striking distance of the leaders before catching everybody's attention by closing out with five victories.

Gabby Espinas, the league's Rookie-MVP awardee in 2004, played a key role in PCU's homestretch drive as he spearheaded the hard-working crew of swingman Jason Castro, Beau Belga and Ian Garrido.

"It's going to be good finals because San Beda and PCU play different types of basketball," said Dualan. "But definitely, the finals series is going to be close."



ALL EYES will be on rivals Gabriel Espinas of PCU and San Beda's Nigerian standout Samuel Ekwe in Monday's match.

Top two UAAP coaches laugh off pressure

From page A23

title-favorite Warriors take on the Santo Tomas Tigers in the other semifinal pairing.

"From the start of the season, we know that we're expected to do very well," said Pumaren. "But we're no longer bothered by outside pressure. We trust our system and we're preparing the best we can."

The Eagles and the Warriors, who need only a win to advance, earned the twice-to-beat semifinal incentive that comes with the top two slots.

"It's my 20th year of coaching, so I've been dealing with pressure for quite a while now," said Black, one of the all-time best coaches in the PBA with 10 championships, including a Grand Slam with San Miguel in 1989.

Such situation is neither new to Pumaren, the former top point guard of Purefoods in the PBA.

"I know how it's like to play when there's a lot at stake," said Pumaren, the PBA's third all-time assist leader.

Both coaches are confident that lessons from their hardcourt experiences would rub off on their young wards going into the Final Four.

"I've been telling my players that nothing can replace hard work," said Pumaren. "We can't be complacent even if we have the twice-to-beat advantage. I kept reminding them that we have to stick to our system."

"For now, the focus is to keep them healthy, to keep them focused and to make sure they have fresh legs," said Black. "It's important that we stay sharp, but we don't tire the players out."

STI, Amacu start Finals duel

GAME TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—STI vs AMACU (Game 1)

THE BUDDING RIVALRY BETWEEN TWO TOP computer schools erupts when STI and AMA Computer collide today in Game 1 of the Naascu basketball finals series at the Rizal Coliseum.

The two teams have emerged from the ruins of University of Manila's crumbled dynasty and also survived brash newcomer San Sebastian-Recoletos Cavite to eventually square off in the best-of-three championship.

Of the two squads, however, the Olympians are no stranger in the finals. They faced the Hawks in the title series last season, UM's fifth straight before it lost key players.

Experience will be on the side of STI which boasts of a solid backcourt with Haddi Porto at the helm. Porto keyed the Olympians' 12-2 top record in the eliminations. ***Marc Anthony Reyes***

Alabang thumps Madrid, forges 4-way tie for lead

DAVAO CITY—BARANGAY ALABANG (MUNTINLUpa) beat overnight solo leader Madrid (Surigao del Sur), 3-1, to create a four-way logjam at top spot after four rounds of the 2006 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championships Friday at the Atrium of Gaisano Mall here. Tied with Alabang at 3.5 points apiece were defending champion Tagaytay City, Cantilan (Surigao del Sur) and Quezon City. Tournament top seed Tagaytay City edged Carrascal (Surigao del Sur), 3.5-0.5, through the victories of GM Joey Antonio, Edmundo Gatus and Allan Macala. Quezon City nipped Tandag (Surigao del Sur), 2.5-1.5, through Truman Hernaez's victory against Fame Fazon. The three other boards ended in draws. IMs Darwin Laylo and Ronald Dableo, the RP representatives to the Doha Asian Games, bested IM Barlo Nadera and NM Mirabeau Maga, respectively, to power Alabang to victory. ***Marlon Bernardino, Contributor***

Model-TV host joins Ford Focus Cup cast at BRC

BARRANDA

MODEL AND TELEVIsion personality Phoemela Barranda, a race-car champ's son and four students complete the cast of 10 vying for the title in the TRS-Ford Focus Cup Race Series which fires off today at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Barranda, the lone female entry in the kickoff leg, said it's her dream to race cars competitively.

"I've always wanted to try car racing, and learn how to race professionally," she said.

Among her rivals are CI Top Driver Challenge winner Jose Gerard Policarpio, who aims to follow in the footsteps of his racing champion father Boyet Policarpio, as well as UP Diliman student George Francisco, karting champs Toti Turalba, Jeff Reyes and Matthew Edmunds and car design shop owner Norman Agojo.

The series, which serves as the local competition debut of the Ford Focus, is supported by Addict Mobile, Petron, Bosch, eStandard Insurance, Red Horse beer, Oakley, Tradeshow, Starbright Bodykits, Speedzone, Palmer-Asia Inc., CI Magazine, Sikkens and Trapik.com.

GM Torre clears the air

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

IT WAS SUPPOSED to be a very serious interview with Grandmaster Eugene Torre. It was aimed to liberate him from the "prima donna" label he has supposedly acquired the past years and was put into focus recently when he and fellow GMs Joey Antonio and Mark Paragua refused to join the qualifying tournament for the Doha Asiad—because the Swiss System being used was "flawed and demeaning."

Having e-mailed a response letter to me some days back, the interview for print and television was supposed to be short—though not necessarily sweet.

During the short interview, Eugene admitted that he was a bit averse to the Swiss System because it was a proven fluke and tended to favor the mass base and not those who had worked hard to be up there where they are.

Eugene said he has a letter to show that they were willing to go through the elims, so long as a different system is used, like the round robin, for example.

After giving his side, Eugene happily informed me that the air has been cleared among the concerned parties—NCFP president Butch Pichay, chair Matt Defensor and the GMs.

"Philippine Chess is lucky to have men like congressmen Pichay and Defensor who both have genuine love and concern for the game. They stay as allies in government as well as in chess," said Eugene who has pledged to support the Philippine team to the Asiad, along with Joey and Mark.

* * *

With the business part of the meeting over, Eugene and I got to talking about matters that happened 30 years back, at about the time he became the first Filipino GM, the same time that I was conducting a mini poll to determine the Ten Sexiest Sportsmen of the land. I was doing this for a popular sports magazine.

Eugene was voted in the Top Ten. He was then only in his early twenties and I still remember how he looked—long hair *a la* Beatles, dark shades, flaired pants, Elvis Presley collar.

Three decades hence, I asked Eugene if the title had somewhat affected his life, because the search had created a big impact at the time.

"I believe it aroused the women reader's curiosity and desire to discover the enigma that you succeeded to create among your choices," Eugene said.

"In that sense, it greatly helped *na mapalapit kami sa* ladies especially those who looked for more than skin-deep."

During those days, Eugene said, he was always in Europe, which was probably a blessing, *"dahil baka hindi ako naka-cope sa mga ladies na curious ma-uncover yung myth na na-create mo. Somehow hindi masyadong affected ang lovely wife ko. Nakaiwas ako sa gulo!"*

Aside from Eugene and the late racecar driver Joey Bundalian, I could not remember the other eight of the 10 sexiest. Eugene said he had the list and promised to text it to me. He kept a clipping of the article. He suggested that I come up with the Ten Sexiest Sportsmen for the 21st century.

* * *

Later that night, I got the list that Eugene promised.

"Twice *ka pala naglabas ng* 10 sexiest, the first in 1974, the second in 1976." Here they are:

The ladies' choice for 1974 were Eugene, Sonny Jaworski, Dante Silverio, Francis Arnaiz, Elias Tolentino, Atoy Co, Bundalian, Manny Paner, Ed Ocampo and Dave Brodett, in that order. In 1976 the cast included golfer Tommy Manotoc, Jaworski, tennis player Macky Dominguez, Eugene again, swimmer Ral Rosario, Dante Silverio, bowler Paeng Nepomuceno, cagers Bernie Fabiosa and Bogs Adornado and car racer Pocholo Ramirez.

Gosh, I can't believe I had allowed some guys to be included in the list. My lady friends must have exerted heavy pressure on me. I know Tessa Jazmines did. Hey, do you remember that poster photo of Dante in a Playgirl pose, covered only by a wash towel?

Come to think of it, three decades is a long time. I think I'll take up Eugene on his suggestion. Let the search begin.

RP's Sultan fights in Russia

PAN-ASIA BOXING ASSOCIATION (PABA) WELterweight king Dondon Sultan takes on Russian Anton Solopov in a non-title junior middleweight grudge fight today at the Icesport Center, Khanty-Mansiysk in Russia. Solopov will try to redeem himself from his defeat to Sultan, who seized his PABA title via a first-round knockout early this year. Sultan knows that a loss will deprive him of the title anyway, The PABA invokes a rule that if a champion loses in a non-title bout, the title becomes vacant. But the Labason, Zamboanga Del Norte, native is unfazed by the hometown crowd, vowing to prove that his first victory was no fluke.

Big SJC stagfest gets going

MORE THAN 80 MATCHES ARE ON THE ROSTER in the "Bigtime 5-Stag Derby" starting at 4 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as co-presentor. To be hosted by Tonton Uy of Isabela, this one-day showdown among the country's Who's Who in cockfighting dangles a guaranteed prize of P500,000. Uy owns the popular entry name, Vertical Limit, a regular entry in such big events as the World Slasher Cup. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-6563.

SPORTSWATCH

Stag Fest lures 102 entries

A PRIZE POT OF P1.5 MILLION WILL BE AT STAKE in the 2006 edition of Roligon Mega Cockpit's Stag Festival 5-stag derby on Sept. 26, 28 and 30. The major attraction at Roligon is sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. As of yesterday, 102 cockhouse reservations have been received. Some participants are fielding two or three entries, said host Rolly Ligon who pegged the entry fee at P8,800. Screening of stags will continue tomorrow. For inquiries, call 851-2275 or 833-1638.

Anniversary derby today

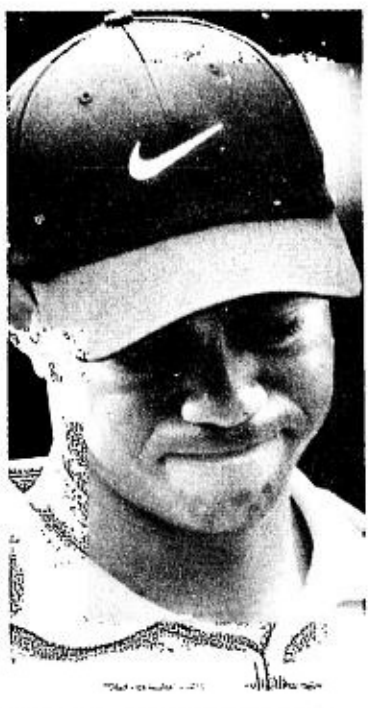
THE STA. ANA COCKPIT WILL CELEBRATE ITS third anniversary today by staging a "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" featuring 75 fights at the venue on AP Reyes Avenue, Makati City. Action starts at 11 a.m. Today's P100,000 event will be hosted by WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., said pit manager Edwin Vittali. The fastest win champ will get P30,000; second, P20,000; third, P10,000; fourth, P8,000; fifth, P7,000 and sixth to 10th placers, P4,000. For inquiries, call 898-3474 or 898-3475.

Wack Wack President's Cup tees off Tuesday

THE SIXTH PRESIDENT'S CUP, HELD IN HONOR OF Wack Wack president Benjamin S. Abalos, fires off Tuesday at the club's East and West courses. Tee-off time for the club members will be 6:30 a.m., shotgun style, at the West course. The guests will see action at the tougher East layout starting 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner and awarding ceremonies will follow at the William J. Shaw Pavilion. The event is sponsored mainly by Unilever and Samsung Electronics and backed by SM Supermalls, Clear Blue Services Corp., Pacific Sports Network, Wilson Sports, GSIS and Philippine Airlines. The PCSO, Gilberto M. Duavit and Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr., Liwayway Marketing Corp., Fortune Tobacco Corp., Robinsons Land, Cherry Foodarama, Sta. Elena Properties, Puregold-Shaw, Immuvit, Majesty Guards are also major sponsors.

Shaun tames Tiger

Furyk, Els also out of Match Play



TIGER Woods' winning streak grinds to a halt. REUTERS

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND—US RYDER CUP TEAM MATES Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk suffered shock defeats in the first round of the World Match Play Championship on Thursday.

World number one Woods, who arrived at Wentworth on the back of a remarkable run of five successive tournament wins, wielded a cold putter throughout the 36-hole match as he lost 4 & 3 to fellow American Shaun Micheel.

"He did what he needed to do," Woods told reporters. "I felt like I hit the ball pretty decent all day, I just didn't make any putts.

"Only (lengthy) putt I really made was on the second hole of the afternoon round. I had my chances, I just had a hard time with the pace and it was hard to read the greens."

Furyk, elevated to second in the world after his victory at the Canadian Open last week, also slumped to a 4 & 3 defeat by Robert Karlsson.

Swede Karlsson, who will make his debut in the Ryder Cup next week, birdied each of the four par-three holes in his eight-under-par morning round of 64, a feat achieved only twice before in the championship.

Briton Paul Casey marked his debut in the event by hitting six birdies and an eagle in an inspired nine-hole run midway through his match to down world number six Retief Goosen, 6 & 4.

New Zealander Michael Campbell, last year's champ, beat Britain's Simon Khan, 3 & 1, while Colin Montgomerie defeated David Howell one up.

Ernie Els' hopes of a record seventh World Match Play title were ended by Argentina's Angel Cabrera, 2 & 1.

Canadian Mike Weir ousted Australian Adam Scott, 3 & 2, while Briton Luke Donald put out Tim Clark of South Africa two up.

Woods, making his second appearance at Wentworth eight years after he was beaten in the final by Mark O'Meara, went one up with a par four at the first but Micheel fired three straight birdies from the third.

Micheel, the 2003 US PGA champ, went round in 70 while Woods took 33 putts in his level-par 72. *Reuters*

SHAUN Micheel plays spoiler role to perfection. REUTERS

Thompson up by 2 shots; Wie sputters anew with 77

FARMINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA—NICHOLAS Thompson matched his career-best PGA Tour round to seize the lead in the PGA 84 Lumber Classic as Michelle Wie floundered well down in his wake.

Thompson, a tour rookie, nabbed six birdies in the first seven holes on his way to an eight-under 64.

He held a two-shot lead over a half-dozen players after the first round in the $4.6 million tournament.

"I can't say much bad about my round. I hit one poor shot and had two three-putts," said the 23-year-old from Florida, who was a member of last year's victorious United States Walker Cup team.

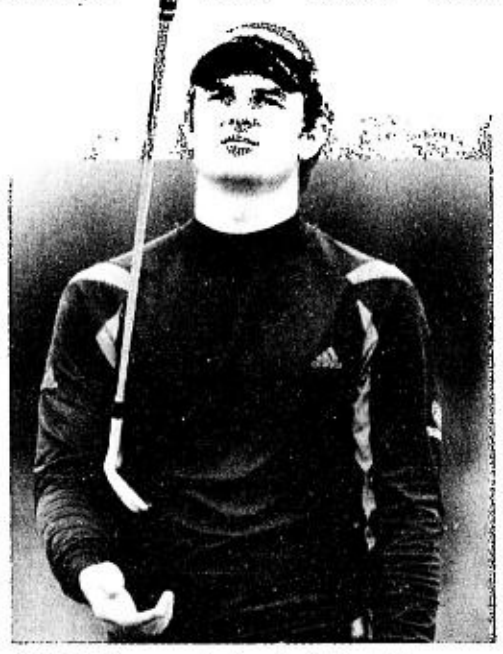
Will MacKenzie, Greg Kraft, Robert Gamez, Ted Purdy, Ben Curtis and South African Rory Sabbatini all posted 66 to share second.

While birdies seemed to be plentiful at Mystic Rock, teenager Wie had trouble finding them.

She struggled to a five-over 77 in her 11th start in a professional men's event.

The 16-year-old did not make a single birdie, but her performance was better than her opening 78 at last week's European Masters.

Thompson's hot start was cooled off with three-putt bogeys at the eighth and ninth holes, before he rebounded with an eagle, three birdies and a bogey on the back nine. *AFP*



JUSTIN Rose reacts to a bad chip shot. AP

368 teams competing in Orchard Founders

REGISTRATION IS UNDER WAY for the 10th edition of The Orchard Founders Golf Invitational slated Nov. 23 to 26 at the The Orchard Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

The 368 annual member-guest tournament will have 368 teams playing 36 holes over four days at the Gary Player and Arnold Palmer courses. There will be two daily shotgun starts at 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

The Stableford scoring system will be used with stroke play at the Palmer Course and best-ball at the Player Course.

The early major sponsors include Sta. Lucia Realty, Globe Platinum, Mizuno and BMW. Premium hole sponsors are HSBC and Security-Diners.

Orchard general manager Rene Garrovillo said that aside from the hole-in-one prize—a BMW 116i and a business class roundtrip ticket to West Coast courtesy of Asiana Airlines—a bonanza of appliances, golf equipment and foreign travel worth a total of P1.3 million await the participant at the cocktails Nov. 23 and 24 and the Awards Night on Nov. 26. Entry fee per team is P8,000.

US, Spain lady cagers rip foes

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—TINA THOMPSON scored 19 points and Candace Parker added 17 to lead two-time defending champion United States, 90-80, over Russia on Thursday and send it to the second round of basketball's Women's World Championship with its third win in as many games.

It was Russia's first loss, while the Americans finished first-round play atop Group C.

Spain outscored Brazil, 12-9, in the final quarter and rallied to beat Brazil, 67-66. Amaya Valdemoro led Spain with 19 points, while Brazil's Iziane also had 19.

Argentina got 25 points from Gisella Vega to notch its second straight win, 83-64, over South Korea.

The results finished Argentina atop Group A in first-round play, just ahead of Brazil and Spain, all of which had identical 2-1 records.

The Czech Republic rolled over Taiwan, 93-72. It was the Czechs' second straight win after an opening four-point loss to France.

Cuba downed France, 78-73.

The Czechs finished atop Group D, followed by the French and Cuba.

Lithuania, which lost its first game by forfeit to Australia because the team arrived late due to bureaucratic problems, downed Senegal, 69-57. *AP*

PROTAGONISTS: Marco Antonio Barrera (left) and Ricardo Juarez face off after a news conference in Las Vegas, Thursday. They will dispute the WBC featherweight title Saturday. AP

Jones withdraws from World Cup

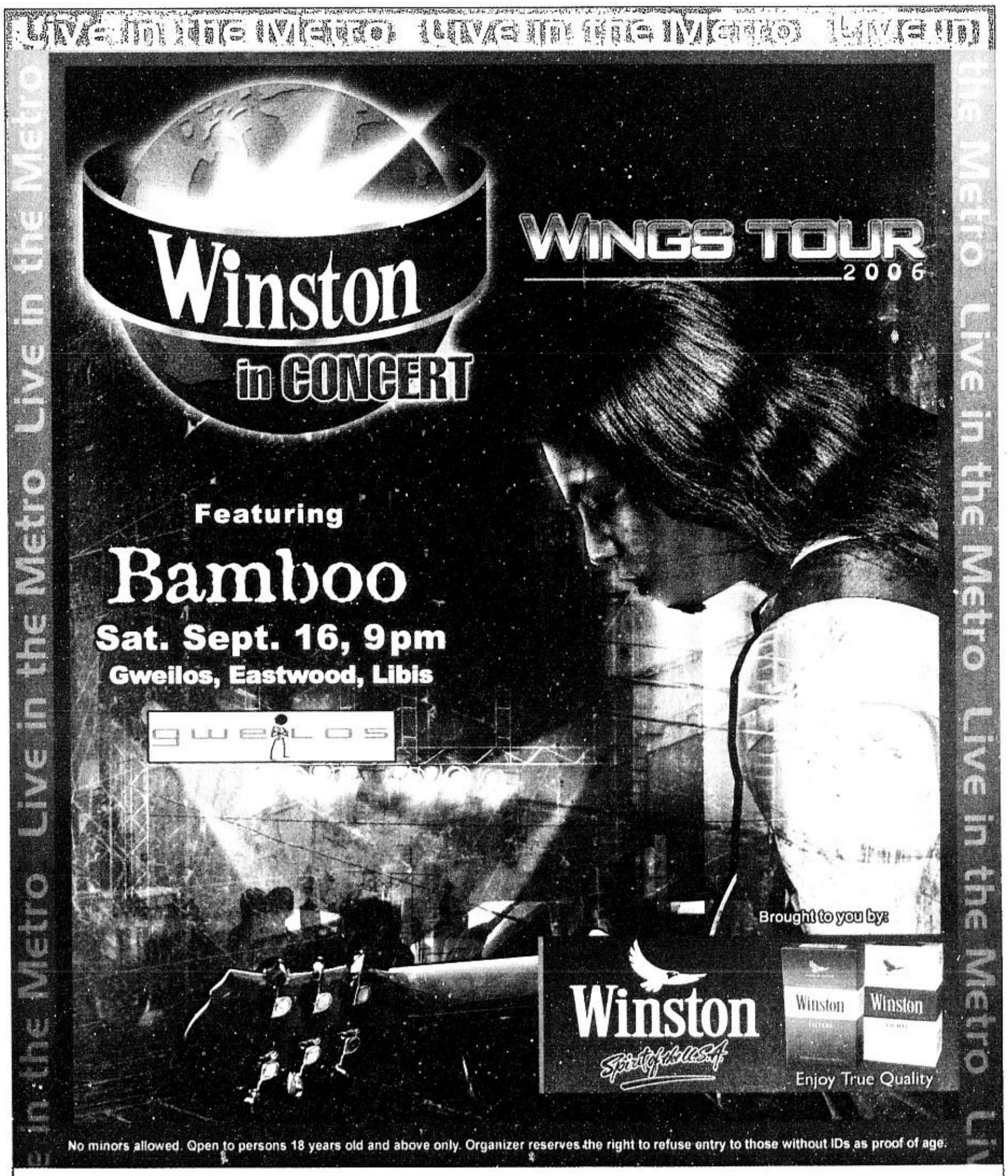
PHOENIX—MARION JONES PULLED OUT of this weekend's World Cup in Athletics in Athens and won't race again this season.

The five-time Olympic medalist said her conditioning wasn't good enough for her to compete at a high level after missing more than a month of competition following her positive test for the banned endurance enhancer EPO. The 30-year-old sprinter was cleared to run again when her second sample tested negative.

"I was in top condition when my season was interrupted more than three weeks ago by the leak of my positive 'A' sample," Jones said in a statement released by lawyer Rich Nichols Thursday.

"I was ready but missed top August competitions in Zurich, Monaco and Brussels and it has been more than six weeks since I raced," she said.

Her coach, Steve Riddick, had said all along it would be better for Jones to call it quits for the season, then come back strong for next year's world championships in Osaka, Japan. *AP*



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

Spring-NBC Cup gets going

Cotta open defense vs Braves as twinbill kicks off regional caging

GAMES TODAY
1 p.m.—Opening ceremony
2 p.m.—Tagaytay-Spring Oil vs Valencia
4 p.m.—Ozamiz vs North Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN, NORTH COTABATO—Veterans and young stars pit their skills today with the opening of the National Basketball Conference, the country's premier regional cagefest.

Billed as the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup, the tournament starts with a doubleheader pitting defending champion Ozamiz Cotta against host North Cotabato at 4 p.m. and Tagaytay-Spring Oil against Valencia at 2 o'clock at the provincial capitol gym here.

The opening ceremony starts at 1 p.m.

Based on their roster, the Cotta Shrine cagers of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog appear to be the team to beat. But they might have their hands full against Gov. Manny Piñol's and team manager Mayor Efren Piñol's North Cotabato Braves, who have recruited ex-pros Tonyboy Espinosa and Henry Fernandez in the offseason.

Ozamiz, shooting for a third title, is loaded with talents like reigning MVP Marlon Basco, Rulof Liangco, Gerry Cavan, Bruce Dacia, Leo Bat-og and Christian Nicdao.

"We look forward to another successful conference," said NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla. The league's executive vice-president, Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino, is likewise optimistic, saying "more PBA materials could come from the present crop of players."

Five NBC standouts made it to different PBA teams in the last rookie draft. They are Mark Magsumbol, MC Caceres, Magnum Membrere, Ronjay Enrile and Ollan Omiping.

Spring Oil-Tagaytay is favored over the Valencia Golden Harvest in the opener of the tourney presented by Sulpicio Lines and supported by Molten and Nature's Spring Mineral Water.

The tournament's other teams are Bacchus/Harbour Centre-San Juan, Tribu Sugbu, Forward Taguig, Pagadian Explorers, Laptop Pawnshop Bulacan and Osmeña-Cebu.

After a single round classification, teams from seventh to 10th places will clash in two wild-card matches with the winners joining the fourth and fifth-placers in facing the "twice-to-beat"-armed top four squads in the quarterfinals.

Four teams will then advance to the semifinals, where the No. 1 seed faces No. 4and Nos. 2 and 3 clash in separate best-of-three series. The winners will collide in another best-of-three series for the title.

COO

TEE

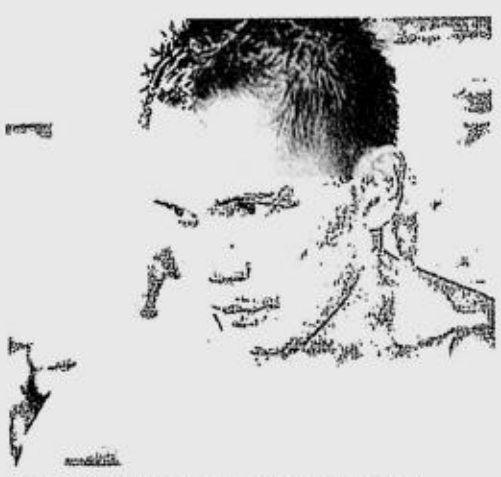
Coo, Tee gain W. Cup nat'l finals

SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES GOLD MEDalist Markwin Tee and former World Bowler of the Year Bong Coo led the second set of recent qualifiers for the national finals of the 2006 Bowling World Cup.

Tee fired a 12-game series of 2666 pinfalls at SM Megamall while Ms Coo, now the Philippine Bowling Congress' management committee chair, rolled 1735 in 10 games at Coronado to earn a chance to represent the country in the World Cup international finals set in Venezuela, on Nov. 4-10.

The other men's qualifiers are: Boy Caintic (2217), Patrick Manalili (2181), Al Soriano (2171), Willie Natividad (2486), Edgar Barroga (2315), Reuel Rallos (2313), Peter Babul (2049), Rhedd Viray (2529), Richie Poblete (2490), Jeric Carabeo (2344), Federico Gadon (2192), Niko Martin Manalo (1950), Resty Mapue (2323), Buddy Bagalay (2063), Benny Daytoc (2706), Tyrone Ongpauco (2672), Wilson Sua (2292), Patrick Manalaysay (2336), July Vargas (2224), Edmond Lara (2278), Ronnie Monzon (2131), Danny Tuazon (2371), Francis de Leon (2365), Kap Aguila (2469), JC Tupaz (2399), Samuel Say Sy (2633), Christian Cabacungan (2012), Roel Obaob (2274), Jeff Ferrer (2201), Raoul Miranda (2385), Jeff Chan (2355), Benshir Layoso (2432), Manny Toleran (2187), Ronnie Martir (2076), Nelson Chavez (2520), James Asahan (2589), Jonathan Tabago (2481), Vener Reasonda (2282), and Caloy Guitones (2213).

Gabi fights in Barrera card against still unknown foe


GABI: New Roach ward is raring to go.

FILIPINO DIOSDADO GABI YESTERDAY SAID he was sure of dishing out a class act in Las Vegas when he fights in the undercard of the Marco Antonio Barrera-Rocky Juarez rematch tomorrow at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino.

But Gabi, seeking a follow-up to his knockout win in Las Vegas last month, has a dilemma. His opponent has remained unknown at press time.

Tomorrow's fight will be Gabi's first under his new promotional group, the Golden Boy Promotions of Oscar De la Hoya, and his first under manager-trainer Freddie Roach.

Roach, however, assured Philboxing.com's Ed De la Vega that Gabi will definitely fight and is raring to display his talent before his new promoter.

Gabi, who set foot on Sin City Thursday, is coming off an impressive first-round technical knockout win over former world champ Mauricio Pastrana on Aug. 10, his first since being stopped by IBF-IBO flyweight king Vic Darchinyan.

Soon after the Darchinyan fight, Gabi hooked up with Roach, and then inked a deal with De la Hoya's group. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

72 pairs dispute Mizuno Scramble at Eagle Ridge

THE MIZUNO SCRAMBLE GOLF Classic motors to the giant Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club course in Gen. Trias, Cavite, today with 72 teams in the hunt for prizes that include holiday packages to Japan.

Venue of the tournament is the Greg Norman layout, one of the four championship and all-weather courses of Eagle Ridge.

The tournament's final roster of member-member entries is the biggest so far in the series revived this year by Mizuno through its local distributor Master Sports Corp.

The field will dispute the three division titles—based on average handicaps—and berths to the finals next year at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course in Laguna.

The finals stake an all-expense paid trip to Japan plus the chance to watch the Mizuno LPGA Classic where Annika Sorenstam and the rest of the world's top players are expected to compete.

The Eagle Ridge tourney follows eliminations stops at the Valley Golf and Country Club's south course in Antipolo and the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Trece Martirez, Cavite.

The Benner at the Riviera, Casino Filipino/Pagcor, BMW Philippines and Philippine Airlines are the major sponsors of the Mizuno Scramble Classic. The other sponsors are Inquirer Golf, Citibank, Mail&More, Renee Barbier Wines, Discovery Suites, Pepsi, Gatorade, BMG Solar, Power Bar, Oakley, Citgo, C-Lium Fibre and Golf Digest Philippines.

Eagle Ridge maximized participation since today's event also serves as members' monthly tournament. Trophies and Mizuno items will be awarded to the winners.

BUSINESS

Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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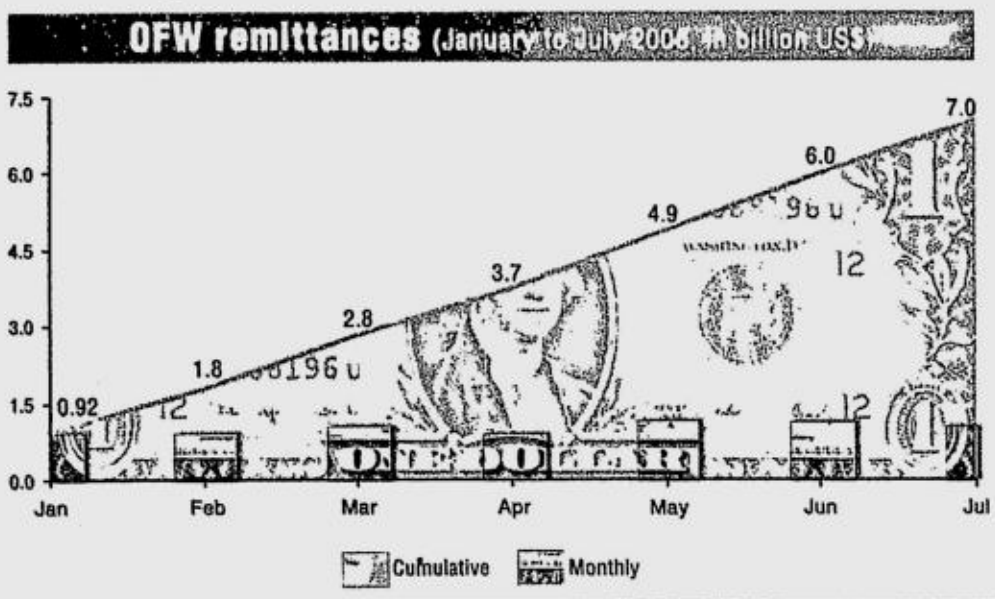
7-mo OFW remittances up 15.8% to $7B

In July alone, transfers through bank channels rose 18.4% to $1.05B



By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS through banks rose 15.8 percent from a year earlier to $7 billion in the first seven months of 2006, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported.

For the month of July alone, the remittances of the country's large work force abroad shot up by 18.4 percent to $1.05 billion from a year ago, the BSP said.

July also marked the third consecutive month that remittances had breached the billion-dollar figure.

The BSP attributed the sustained inflows to the rising demand for Filipino workers and improving access to commercial banks and the services of private remittance agents.

The BSP data do not include money sent through informal channels by the more than eight million Filipinos—a tenth of the country's population—working in various parts of the world.

OFW remittances from January to July poured in from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates.

The BSP likewise noted a remarkable growth in remittances from other countries such as Canada, which increased by 190.7 percent; Taiwan, which rose 53.3 percent; and Singapore, which was up 22.7 percent.

Citing preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on new hires and rehires, the BSP said total deployment of overseas workers in July grew by 43.1 percent to 102,105, boosted by higher demand for both sea-based and land-based OFWs.

In particular, the deployment of land-based workers in July showed a significant increase of 55.4 percent, recovering from the consecutive declines posted since April this year, the BSP reported.

But the BSP added that demand for sea-

7-MO OFW/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE

Bank loans up 4.3% to P1.6T in July /B2

Getting OFWs and their families to save, invest /B3

Transco auction moved anew /B5

World's 5th largest mining firm drawn to Diwalwal gold rush site

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-RUN NATURAL RESOURCES MINING Development Corp. (NRMDC) is seeking a joint venture partner to develop the Diwalwal gold mining project that may require at least $75 million to develop.

The NRMDC, chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is set to bid out the project before the year ends, or as soon as it completes a feasibility study detailing the mineral reserves of the Diwalwal gold site situated in the Compostela Valley bordering Davao and South Cotabato.

According to the NRMDC's initial estimates, the site is expected to have a mine life of 20 years.

Already, the gold site has drawn the attention of Harmony Gold Mining Co. Ltd., the world's fifth-biggest gold producer.

Both firms have expressed their keen interest to invest in the country's mining sector.

Greg Job, manager of the new business and exploration unit of the South African firm, said he visited earlier this week the Mt. Diwalwal site, which gained notoriety as a gold rush area about twenty years ago.

In the 1980s, Diwalwal was a mining town with more than 30,000 people operating illegal small scale mines.

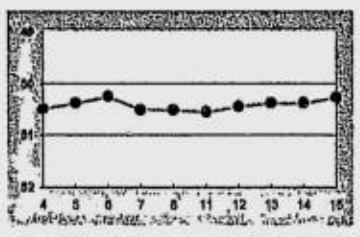
Job believes that development of the site may entail $150 million in investments.

According to NRMDC president Artemio Disini, interested investors from Australia, Chi-

WORLD'S/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.26 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 15, 2006

¥ 117.58 = $1

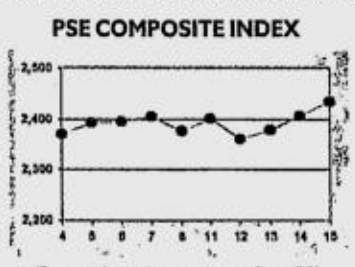
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 14, 2006

GOLD: $577.50-578.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 15, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 1.18% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed up 1.18 percent, hitting a fresh four-month high due to strong interest in market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), dealers said.

A continued drop in crude oil prices supported follow-through buying, they said.

The composite index rose 28.38 points at 2,434.86 after trading between 2,406.48 and 2,437.68.

The broader all-share index rose 11.03 points to 1,495.86.

STOCKS/ B4

Bank loans up 4.3% to ₱1.6T in July

Biggest growth noted in real estate, services sectors

By Doris C. Dumlao

LENDING BY COMMERCIAL banks picked up by 4.3 percent to P1.61 trillion in July over a year ago. This also represents a turnaround from a 0.6-percent contraction in the previous month.

In a report, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that on a month-on-month basis, the banks' outstanding loans also increased by 1.8 percent, following a 1.5 percent contraction in the previous month.

The BSP said the improvement in bank lending was driven mainly by the growth in loans to the financial institutions, real estate and business services sector (20.6 percent) and the community, social and personal services sector (10.4 percent). Other sectors that also received more funding were wholesale and retail trade (1 percent) and mining and quarrying (0.1 percent).

However, lending declined in other key sectors such as construction (-14.9 percent); manufacturing (-7.8 percent); electricity, gas and water (-7.2 percent), and transportation, storage and communication (-4.4 percent).

"The stronger growth in bank lending may be attributed in part to the improving trend in commercial banks' nonperforming loan ratio, which fell to 7.17 percent of the total loan portfolio in July 2006 from 7.22 percent in the previous month and 9.54 percent in the same period last year," the BSP reported.

Banks also took advantage of the booming property sector by hiking their lending and investment exposure in real estate by 3.4 percent in the second quarter, reversing the 2 percent contraction seen in the first quarter.

The commercial banking sector's real estate exposure in the form of loans and securities amounted to P210.2 billion at end-June against the P203.3 billion posted in end-March. The growth came from real estate loans amounting to P7.2 billion, offsetting the P200 million cut in investments in securities issued by real estate companies. Two universal banks accounted for 81.6 percent of the P7.2 billion growth in the industry's real estate loans.

Recent studies indicated that the property market had been recovering from the slump caused by the Asian currency crisis of 1997. The recovery, the studies indicated, was fueled by strong foreign exchange inflows from overseas Filipinos, demand from companies engaged in business process outsourcing and the growing popularity of condominium living.

The BSP's latest quarterly report on banks' real estate exposure showed that lending to this sector expanded by 3.8 percent to P193.5 billion in end-June from P186.3 billion the previous quarter. As such, the ratio of real estate loans to total outstanding loans rose to 11.7 percent during the quarter from 11.6 percent in the previous quarter.

Manila Pen ₱508-M renovation gets perks

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS APPROVED the granting of perks to Manila Peninsula Hotel's latest modernization project worth P508.63 million.

The project involves the renovation of the 249 rooms of the hotel's Makati Tower, including support facilities.

This represents half of The Peninsula's total rooms as its Ayala Tower has the same number of rooms. Also to be renovated are the lobbies, and the ballrooms—Rigodon, Garcia Villa, Balagtas and Balmori.

The company has had three registrations with the BOI—in 1991, 1996 and 1998—each involving modernization projects.

The Peninsula Manila is run by The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Ltd., which has six other hotels in New York, Chicago, Beverly Hills, Bangkok, Beijing, Shanghai as well as another one in Tokyo which will open in 2007.

The BOI said this kind of project was qualified for registration since it involved tourism accommodation facilities, an activity listed under the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan.

Also, the project was given pioneer status due to the huge amount of investment, which was more than five times the minimum required for hotel modernization project, which is P100 million.

Pioneer status qualifies the proponent to avail itself of a tax holiday of up to six years, duty-free importation of capital products as well as other fiscal and nonfiscal incentives.

The project also complements efforts of the tourism department to drum up foreign tourist arrivals.

One of the promising markets that the Department of Tourism is working on is mainland China, which had been the Philippines' fastest-growing tourist market.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano had said arrivals from China had recorded a growth rate of almost 10 times its usual average and six times faster than any of the country's other markets.

Ronnel W. Domingo

SMART INTERNET MICRO-BUSINESS
Sen. Mar Roxas tries out the SmartBro wireless broadband service during the opening of TechnoNegosyo while Myla Villanueva, the event's cochair, looks on. The event is a two-day IT business expo encouraging would-be entrepreneurs to use different technology solutions and services to grow their business. Smart Bro Computer Station is a *pangkabuhayan* program that offers entrepreneurs the opportunity to set up small Internet PC station businesses using Smart's wireless broadband technology.

Swap of Metro Pacific shares for new firm's shares proposed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

METRO PACIFIC CORP., A UNIT OF HONG Kong giant First Pacific Co. Ltd., is proposing a swap of its shares for those of debt-free holding firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. which will replace MPC as a listed firm, said MPC corporate information officer David Nugent.

The proposal has yet to be approved by corporate regulators.

Under the proposal, every four MPC shares will get 1 MPIC share plus three warrants, which will give the holders the right to buy MPIC shares in the future at a certain price.

MPIC will initially hold 51 percent of profitable real-estate firm Land Pacific Corp., MPC and other future investments in other sectors.

MPC is currently undergoing a capital restructuring which will reduce its issued and outstanding shares by 18.1 billion to 952.8 million shares from 19 billion.

As a result, 20 MPC shares will be consolidated into 1 MPC share. This means that a stockholder who holds 100 common shares with a par value of P1.00 each will now have five common shares with the same par value.

At yesterday's closing price of P3.60, MPC shares are valued at 18 centavos after taking into account a consolidation ratio of 20:1.

MPC's corporate reorganization that will prompt the transfer of its shares and its property assets to MPIC, which will later be listed on the stock exchange to replace MPC upon completion of the reorganization.

The new holding company is envisioned to become the corporate vehicle that will be tasked with expanding MPC's real-estate business through Landco, raise new capital from existing and new investors and make new investments in infrastructure.

The reorganization involves three stages. The first involves the reduction of MPC's capital stock and the swap of its shares for MPIC shares. It will also include the sale of a 51-percent stake in Landco to MPIC.

In the second stage, the newly-formed MPIC will make a tender offer to MPC shareholders subject to the approval of regulators. At the same time, MPIC will list its shares in the PSE while MPC will withdraw its listing. At this stage, MPIC will directly own a majority of Landco and MPC.

MPC, for its part, will continue to exist as a private company and will own shipping firm Negros Navigation Co. and other land assets in Fort Bonifacio.

Under the third phase, P2.7 billion in new capital will be raised through a rights issue. MPC earlier signed an agreement with British investment firm Ashmore Global Situations Fund for the latter to invest in MPIC by way of rights assigned by the First Pacific Group.

Once the rights issue is completed this month, MPIC will have a total capital of P4.5 billion.

GOINGS-ON

New VoIP business

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE USE of Voice Over Internet Protocol will be presented to aspiring Filipino entrepreneurs during the First Philippines Momentum Plus VoIP Business Opportunity Meeting on Sunday, Sept. 17 at the SM Mega Mall, Mega Trade Conference Center.

Guest speaker will be John Ciccotte, COO and founder of First Philippines Momentum Plus.

The event's morning session will be at 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., while the afternoon session will start at 3 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m.

Participants will be taught how to start the many VoIP-based businesses with minimal capital, and get the opportunity to earn dollars.

For inquiries and reservations, call or text James Alcantara at 0916-7888487.

Beiqi Foton exec in RP

DREAMCO AUTOMOBILE CO. INC. HAS COMpleted the local assembly of their first batch of its Forland Gordox light trucks.

Forland Gordox, a light commercial vehicle, is manufactured by Beiqi Foton Motor Co. Ltd. (a subsidiary of Beijing Motor).

Completely knocked down (CKD) units of this vehicle are brought into the country for assembly, with locally manufactured parts, by Dreamco Automobile Co. in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

This model was first introduced to the Philippine market during the 2006 China Machinery and Electronic Product Exhibition held on June 6-9 at the World Trade Center in Roxas Boulevard.

Zhou Liang, president of Foton Overseas Enterprises and vice president of Beiqi Foton Motor Co. Ltd., will come to the Philippines on Sept. 18 to witness the first batch of Forland Gordox roll out the assembly line.

IMF seeks stronger support from members

SINGAPORE—THE INTERNAtional Monetary Fund and World Bank's joint annual meetings are back in Asia for the first time since the currency turmoil of 1997, with the sister institutions vowing to be more attuned to new global realities.

The IMF, bouncing back from criticisms over its relevance to the world's fastest growing region, is asking the 184 member-countries to support reforms to democratize its own governance. It has also vowed to boost its surveillance and crisis prevention capabilities.

The World Bank, for its part, gave its assurance that it would not cut back on its development lending alongside its crusade against corruption.

In a press briefing ahead of the joint meetings on Sept. 19-20, IMF managing director Rodrigo de Rato yesterday unveiled a medium-term strategy to strengthen the IMF's surveillance toolkit via a "deeper analysis and monitoring of exchange rates, the financial sector and cross-country spillover issues."

"The international community in a globalized economy has a very important role to play, not only in crisis resolution but also in crisis prevention and surveillance," De Rato said.

The IMF member-countries were urged to approve an increase in quota, or financial contribution to the IMF, of four under-represented countries (relative to their weight in the global economy)—China, Korea, Mexico and Turkey. The IMF wants members to commit to a broader reform of the quota distribution process within the next two years.

Before the next spring meetings, De Rato said the IMF would be able to come up with a more concrete framework for the proposed new instrument that shall provide liquidity for emerging markets with strong fundamentals but remained vulnerable to shocks.

In a separate press briefing, World Bank president Paul Wol-

IMF/ B3

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 15, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37.5	38	37.5	38	1,662,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55.5	56	55	55.5	790,000
China Banking Corp.	690	690	690	690	2,040
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.41	13,400,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	77	77.5	76	76	127,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	39.5	39	39.5	304,000
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	33.5	37,800
Phil. Savings Bank	41	42.5	41	42.5	3,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17.5	16.75	17.5	15,400
Security Bank Corp.	51	51	51	51	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	20,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	960,000
Filipino Fund Inc	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	19,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1600	1590	1590	1,710
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	41,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	225	225	225	225	13,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2010	1980	1980	680
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	2,175,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	48	48	47.5	48	143,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	47.5	48.5	47.5	48	558,900
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	19	18.5	18.75	374,700
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	29	29	181,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2	2,645,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	4,072,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	52,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	539,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	35,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	23	23,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	33	33	36,200
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	90,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	107,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	87,500
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	71	398,800
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.75	18	1,072,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	2,510,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	1,100,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4	4	4	4	2,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,211,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.46	0.51	0.46	0.49	119,360,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.125	26,630,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	8,000,000
Ayala Corp.	462.5	467.5	460	465	85,550
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.53	220,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	21,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.029	0.027	0.028	28,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.94	1.96	294,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.23	1,750,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	27,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.93	930,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.2	3.6	3.2	3.45	420,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.26	256,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	35,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	2,109,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.7	400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.15	3.35	3.15	3.3	4,891,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	277,000
Medco Holdings	0.235	0.26	0.235	0.24	1,370,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.3	1.4	1.28	1.32	16,977,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	22,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.135	280,000
SM Investments Corp.	229	229	228	229	1,019,850
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.16	657,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.11	16,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.75	14	2,543,300
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,485,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.65	2.65	683,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	7,410,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.85	0.85	520,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.06	0.0525	0.06	8,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	6,143,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	210,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.84	22,415,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.4	3.65	3.4	3.6	333,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	764,400
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	1,110,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	66,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8.1	294,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.61	0.57	0.6	660,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.0925	1,800,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16	16	16	16	11,900
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.02	1.02	1	1	320,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	9,611,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1035	1040	1030	1035	15,800
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.4	4.5	3,963,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2055	2120	2055	2110	268,630
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	600,000
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	3,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	75,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	6,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	40,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	215,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	24,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.2	1.2	110,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	22,500
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6	6	6	6	2,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.94	589,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	6,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	60,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	29,000
Ipeople Inc	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	162,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.04	101,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,604,600
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	65,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.25	4.25	4.1	4.25	1,459,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.15	4.3	4.1	4.25	1,131,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	209,900,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	1,019,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	25,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	4,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	13,570,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	1,420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.02	0.018	0.02	601,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.023	0.02	0.023	301,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	114,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.25	3.55	3.25	3.55	12,393,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21.5	21.5	21	21.25	5,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	560,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	14,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	300,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1	1	1	1,110,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	340,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp.-B	10	10	10	10	2,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9	9.8	9	9.8	395,000

CURRENCIES

September 15, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.785978	1.000000	50.3050
Japan	Yen	0.006686	0.008506	0.4279
United Kingdom	Pound	1.482905	1.886700	94.9104
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101002	0.128505	6.4644
Switzerland	Franc	0.627778	0.798722	40.1797
Canada	Dollar	0.703021	0.894454	44.9955
Singapore	Dollar	0.498243	0.633914	31.8890
Australia	Dollar	0.592877	0.754318	37.9460
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.084989	2.652731	133.4456
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209572	0.266638	13.4132
Brunei	Dollar	0.496669	0.631912	31.7883
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021063	0.026799	1.3481
UAE	Dirham	0.214000	0.272272	13.6966
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.272300	64.0031
Argentina	Peso	0.253542	0.322581	16.2274
Brazil	Real	0.366252	0.465983	23.4413
Denmark	Kroner	0.134071	0.170579	8.5810
India	Rupee	0.017090	0.021744	1.0938
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214046	0.272331	13.6996
Mexico	New Peso	0.071629	0.091133	4.5844
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519209	0.660589	33.2309
Norway	Kroner	0.120457	0.153257	7.7096
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013004	0.016545	0.8323
South Africa	Rand	0.106285	0.135227	6.8026
Korea	Won	0.000821	0.001045	0.0526
Sweden	Kroner	0.108387	0.137901	6.9371
Syria	Pound	0.015141	0.019264	0.9691
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023887	0.030391	1.5288
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000366	0.000466	0.0234

Getting OFWs and their families to save, invest

Philam Life embarks on financial literacy program

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

OFW Family day in Batangas City.

IT'S A SAD REFRAIN THAT IS UNfortunately heard much too often.

It's the one about overseas Filipino workers working abroad—away from home and family—for many years, only to find themselves going home to the same financial rut they were in before they left.

One of the reasons is that they just do not know what to do with their money to ensure that they and their families will have enough to live on when their contracts expire.

This is where Philam Life, one of the country's leading insurance companies, comes in through its financial literacy and wealth management program.

Under the program, Philam Life teaches OFWs basic financial concepts during the pre-departure seminar organized by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Philam Life even produced a 10-minute video to show the OFWs the value of setting aside a portion of their hard-earned money as savings, and not give in to the temptation of spending everything on appliances or clothes.

Basic lessons

Company executive vice president Jesus G. Hofileña told the INQUIRER in an interview that through these activities, Philam Life was also able to help in the government's campaign to increase savings among Filipinos, especially OFWs who remit $12 billion a year to the economy.

"What we want is for OFWs to prioritize their expenses because there are really a lot of uncertainties that they face," Hofileña said.

One of Philam Life's first lessons is for OFWs to set their goals and think about what they want to achieve with their money. By doing so, they learn about simple budgeting and the relationship between their savings and their expenses.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

The insurance firm also teaches OFWs which investments are good and which are merely get-rich-quick schemes disguised as investment programs.

Because they lack knowledge on financial instruments and they are perceived to have ready cash, OFWs are prime targets of these unscrupulous businessmen.

Hofileña said that by knowing more about the legitimate investment opportunities in the market, OFWs would no longer be victimized by scams such as pyramiding schemes.

OFWs are made to realize that if a scheme sounds too good to be true, then it is.

Go slow on spending

In the process of discussing the topics of investments and savings, Philam Life people tell OFWs to go slow on purchasing big-ticket items such as jewelry and expensive cars when they are still in the saving stage.

"We try to convince them that these items can wait and that they should set aside for what they really need such as food, shelter and education," Hofileña said.

Hofileña said the company also tried to teach the OFWs to diversify their investments and that there were other ways to protect their money aside from putting them in a bank.

"They can also try buying stocks, mutual funds, insurance and putting their money in different savings accounts," Hofileña said.

Even the families left behind by the OFWs are taken cared of.

Philam Life holds the Philam Life Family Day twice a year, where 50 to 200 OFW families are treated to free medical check-ups, medicine, raffle, games, free overseas calls and wealth management seminars.

By giving the family members the same financial tools, it is hoped that they will take better care of the money sent home by their loved ones.

He said the OFWs' beneficiaries were being made to realize that they should not put too much pressure on the breadwinner.

Partnership with OWWA

Hofileña said Philam Life entered into partnership with OWWA about two years ago because it realized that the OFWs needed help in planning their finances.

The company has expanded the program to include high school students, through a partnership with the Department of Education.

The primary aim is to inculcate among students the value of savings and the role that even a small savings account plays in nation-building.

"The challenge is to communicate these concepts of savings to the students and their parents so that these values are reinforced," he said.

The campaign is good for Philam Life's business in the long run as the additional knowledge will likely lead to additional purchases of insurance products.

"We realize that for us to broaden our services in the future, we have to be involved in education," Hofileña said.

IMF seeks stronger support from members

From page B2

fowitz said that over the last 10 years, the bank had been "less prescriptive" and "more open" in its dealings with various nations.

"The fact that we have to allocate funds underscores the fact that we can't tolerate the misuse of our resources," Wolfowitz said.

He said a new strategy paper on governance and anticorruption to be released by the bank sought to make the quality of lending better instead of finding a reason to cut back on lending.

"Money is needed, resources are needed—but it needs to go in the right place...We can't afford to simply turn a blind eye when we do encounter corruption in our projects," he said.

Transparency International, a global movement dedicated to fighting corruption, welcomed WB's pro-active approach to combat corruption but called on the bank to demonstrate the highest standards of transparency and accountability in its own backyard.

As part of its advocacy, TI urged "stronger action to ensure the accountability of project implementing agencies" as well as exercise of greater oversight and attention to "red flags" and transparency requirements.

"Powerful risk mitigation tools such as integrity pacts, e-procurement and requirements that bidders have antibribery programs should be featured. Sanctions should also be continued and publicized against corrupt contractors, following independent investigations conducted according to high standards and provisions for possible appeals," TI said in a position paper.

In the meantime, the IMF-WB meetings were marred by a dispute over Singapore's decision to prohibit the entry of representatives from nongovernment organizations and even some from the media, even those already accredited by the IMF-WB to attend the meetings, which are held outside their homecourt Washington DC every three years. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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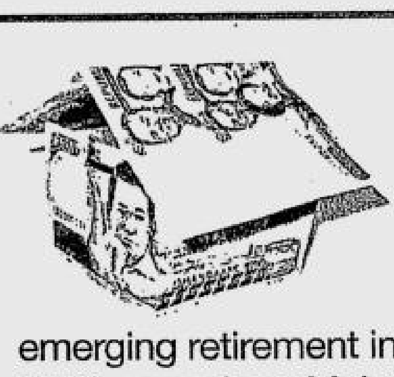

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INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Saturday, September 16, 2006
SAT-SUN 9 PM Philippine Idol
ABC Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA				Letty La Mas Fea		Teka Mona		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Philippine Idol			ABCinema		
ABS-CBN 2		Star Magic Presents		Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Komiks		John En Shirley		TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Dream Academy		Aalog alog		Sports Unlimited
AXN		The Rundown				David Blaine Frozen In Time		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	The World's Most Extreme Rides		The Contender (Season II)		House (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season I)	
Cartoon Network		Camp Lazlo	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Powerpuff Girls	Robotboy	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	The Flintstones Meet The Jetsons [illegible] Race			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Power Rangers Dino Thunder / Gundam Seed Destiny	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinema One	Singles				Volta				Can This Be Love				Banyo Queen				Salome		
Cinemax	Crash Landing (2:25PM)			Batman (3:55 PM)				The Man Who Wouldn't Die			The 51st State			Michael Collins				Dawn Of The Dead (11:10PM)	
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News		World News	World Sport	World News				Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Prison Break/ Bones		Prison Break		E-Ring		Sudden Impact			
Discovery Channel				History		Power Zone				Perfect Disaster		Deadliest Catch		I Shouldn't Be Alive		A Haunting		Perfect Disaster	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery/ Hannah Montana	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean/ Hannah Montana	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	Totally Spies/ Hannah Montana	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Major League Baseball Thursday						X-Games Files 04	Motorsport Asia	LPGA Golf Wendy's 3-Tour for Children 2nd Rd.				Major League Baseball Friday					
ETC		Everwood 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C.3		Beauty And The Geek 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. [illegible]	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Value	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantastikids (5:20PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador (9:05 PM)			Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		Mr. Rock 'n Roll: Alan Freed Story			Where There's A Will (4:45 PM)				Safe House				Napoleon			Napoleon (10:15PM)			
HBO			Timeline (3:45 PM)				Connie and Carla (5:45 PM)				Man Of The House (7:20 PM)			Sleuth				Entourage 15: The Sundance Kids	Entourage 16: Oh, Mandy
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High	Chrono Crusade	DNAngel	Forzal Mario	Love Hina	Super Doll Licca	G3	Voltes V Evolution	Hero TV [illegible]			Mon Colle Knights	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop	Auto Review	Getz Mo Getz Ko		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Amis		Blag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports			
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The DL	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	I Do Diaries		E! Extra: Jackie Collins Presents: Hitched In Hollywood	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Arena	MTV Hits	Breaking The Rules: MTV's Top 25 Moments				Cribs	My Own	Laguna Beach	8th & Ocean	MTV Live: Spongecola		VH1 Complete History: The [illegible] Show		MTV Hits		Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	MYXellaneous	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Milestones: Journey of Man				Insect Wars		Sea Hunters		Milestones: Egypt Secret Chambers Revealed		Ultimate [illegible] Marine Machines - Speed		Crash Scene Investigation: Train Collision		Crash Scene Investigation: Runaway Train		No Borders: Lovers on the Ice	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Bakbakan Sa [illegible]		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice Debate		GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Kusgada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi... [illegible]		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nagsi... [illegible]		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	Euromaxx	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle/ Romeo!	Romeo!/ Naturally Sadie	All That	The Brothers Garcia All Grown Up	The Fairly Odd Parents As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	[illegible]
PBO			Siakbo				Ang Kaso Ng [illegible] Mga Bangkay				Fight Night 8				Ang Pagbabalik Ni Pedro Penduko				
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		Fans Kita		Ayii Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				The Final Cut	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Biyaheng Langit	Badminton		Global Window	Just For Laughs		Wwe Raw		CSI: NY		Saturday Night Playhouse		Sheperds Voice		Sony Music Video	
SBN 21								Barangay Uniting [illegible]		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan				Beach Volleyball [illegible]	
Solar Sports						World Pool 2006 Masters		WNCAA		China Valley [illegible]			GWS 37-2006	Superfights [illegible] vs. C. Cruz					
Sports Plus		This Is The PGA Tour		Golf Today	Inside the PGA	Raceworld		World Poker Tour Borgata Poker				Ultimate Fighting [illegible]				Bell Canadian Open Highlights		84 Lumber Classic Day2	
Star Movies	Godsend			Tremors 4 (4:15 PM)				The Triangle - Ep 01			The Triangle - Ep 01			The Triangle - Ep 03			The Triangle - Ep 03		
Star World		Third Watch		Miami Vice		Philly		Sons & Daughters	The Drew Carey Show	One Tree Hill		TNA Xplosion		World's Most Amazing Videos		Enterprise			Reel Deal
Studio 23								Sports TV	The Contender	7th Heaven (7:15 PM)		The Bachelorette		Barkada Nights					

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Exporters urge BSP to act on peso rise

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL EXPORTERS HAVE RENEWED CALLS for the government to act on the continued strengthening of the peso against the US dollar, saying market speculators could be behind the uptrend that threatened the rise in the country's export earnings.

Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., urged the Bangko Sentral to get at the bottom of the peso's continued strengthening and adopt corrective measures as it had been doing whenever the peso was suspected to be under attack.

Ortiz-Luiz said exporters recognized the importance of a strong currency on the overall economy. However, he said, the peso strengthening to less than 51 to the dollar would make the export business less viable.

Earlier this year, Philexport had raised the alarm when the peso rose to 52 for a dollar from about 56, where it had been for the past two years.

Yesterday, Ortiz-Luis noted that the peso was hovering just above 50:$1 and had threatened to breach this level earlier this month.

"While it is true that a strong peso benefits some segments of the economy, it is badly hurting indigenous exports, those that are anchored on local raw materials," he said.

The Philexport chief explained that such types of export businesses—including fresh and processed food manufacturers, handicrafts and furniture makers, although mostly SMEs—are collectively the country's largest employers.

The closure of these businesses could mean the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs," he warned.

"If the strong peso lingers, the overall performance of the export industry—which had pulled off a 16-percent growth in the first half of the year—may slowdown," Ortiz-Luis said.

He said the peso's strength against the dollar has been traditionally bandied about as good for the country.

"It's real impact, however, is that it encouraged the growth of imports and export industries that used imported raw materials like garments, machine parts and electronics," he said.

"On the other hand, domestic manufacturing, agriculture and indigenous exports are stunted by a policy of keeping the peso strong," he added.

TRO on sin tax law seen to cost gov't P3B

ON THE GOOD SHIP VEGA
Officials of NTT WE Marine Corp., a submarine cable maintenance provider of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., take part in christening the cable ship Vega. From right, NTT WE Marine Corp. president Mitsuhiro Takase, Atsushi Kobayashi, Rene Murga, Capt. Vicente Agos, and chief engineer Esmael Gentelizo stand in the control of the cable ship, which used to be called C/S PLDT. The submarine cable maintenance provider is now offering its services to other countries in the Asia-Pacific.

Agencies hard pressed to collect expected gains

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ESTIMATED that the government could stand to lose at least P3 billion in potential duty revenues this year should the temporary restraining order on the sin tax law hold sway for the rest of the year.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters that the TRO imposed by the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court in May last year was the main reason why the government could not collect on the expected gains from the sin tax law.

The law was implemented in January last year.

The sin tax law, or Republic Act No. 9334, raised the excise tax rates slapped on so-called sin products, such as cigarettes and alcohol.

The TRO hindered the law's implementation in Subic, where most cigarette and alcohol imports pass through. According to the court, excise taxes could not be slapped on goods coming through Subic, being a freeport zone and considered to be outside Philippine territory.

In response, the Office of the Solicitor General, which represents the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Finance, filed an appeal with the Supreme Court.

Citing Section No. 218 of the National Internal Revenue Code, the OSG argued that a court could not stop the government from collecting taxes.

Government data showed that the sin tax law helped the Bureau of Customs to raise only P399 million worth of additional excise tax collection in the first semester.

The figure represented an 82-percent shortfall from the P2.25 billion worth of additional taxes expected to be collected under the sin tax law in the six-month period.

The government originally projected that the sin tax law would help the government collect P9 billion worth of additional excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol this year.

The amount is split in half, with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs each accounting for P4.5 billion of the total full-year target.

But Beltran said the Bureau of Customs, although it had met its monthly total duty collection targets, might not meet the projected revenues because of the TRO.

He said the DOF regretted the fact that the TRO had gone the route of a long, tedious judicial process.

The multi-sectoral Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) earlier criticized the TRO issued by the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court. The group said that tax exemption for imports passing through Subic only covers inputs or raw materials for production, and not final goods sold outside the freeport.

FTA said the TRO was unfair to local producers, especially to the country's tobacco farmers. The group also said the court decision was unfair to the government, which spent time and effort having the sin tax law passed to generate much-needed revenues.

In imposing the TRO, the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court cited Republic Act. No. 7227, which states that no taxes, local and national, shall be imposed within the Subic Special Economic Zone.

DOF bucks perks for auto parts, tourism

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS cool to proposals to grant fiscal incentives to the automotive parts and medical tourism industries, both of which are seeking tax breaks.

The DOF said the call for fiscal incentives was not timely, given current government efforts to plug huge revenue losses from existing tax and duty free privileges.

The government's budget woes was blamed partly on the generous granting of fiscal incentives.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said it was normal for any industry to claim it needs incentives, but that the government should exercise prudence in the granting of incentives.

"Everybody wants incentives, but we are not a rich country," Beltran said.

The finance official said the DOF has supported a bill pending in the Senate limiting the granting of incentives to export-oriented firms or those in the country's 30 poorest provinces.

The Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP) earlier reiterated its call for the government to at least match the incentives granted by governments of neighboring countries to their auto parts industries.

It cited the Thai government, which grants an eight-year income tax holiday to the industry.

The MVPMAP expressed concern that the recent signing of the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), which includes a provision reducing tariffs on imported cars, would make it more difficult for the domestic auto and auto parts makers to compete.

Meanwhile, Batangas Rep. Eileen Ermita-Buhain and Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores filed House Bill No. 5696, which seeks to create medical tourism zones and grant fiscal and non-fiscal incentives such as tax holidays to locators.

The bill is aimed at making the Philippines to better compete with countries like Cuba, India, Israel, Malaysia, Thailand, which are becoming favorite destinations for medical, dental and surgical services.

Beltran said, however, that granting fiscal incentives to the two industries would only encourage other industries to ask for similar tax and duty perks.

He said though that these industries may still avail themselves of tax perks so long as they export or locate in the poorest provinces. *Michelle V. Remo*

World's 5th largest . . .

From page B1

na, and the US have also been inquiring on the prospects of Diwalwal even before the bidding was announced.

Disini hopes that with the infusion of foreign equity, the project site will become fully operational by 2008.

On Thursday night, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes quelled the fears of members of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines that the government is set to impose a a moratorium on new mining projects.

"There is no moratorium," Reyes said on the sidelines of the Indaba Philippine Mining Conference held at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

Reyes pointed out that the government is actively pursuing "the promotion of the 24 priority mining projects ... but we are carefully reviewing new mining permits to be issued."

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines earlier aired its concern over the government's slowdown in the issuance of permits, leading some members to assume that a moratorium could be next.

Since Reyes assumed his post in February, the DENR had issued no new mining permit whether for exploration or for ore production.

Data show that there are currently 14 pending mining permits that have not been given the stamp of approval over the last eight months.

But Reyes explained that the agency was just being careful in studying the applications.

He said the DENR could not afford to sacrifice the environment in exchange for high economic returns brought on by mining investments that the agency estimates may reach $56.5 billion over the next 5 to 10 years.

"While we recognize the positive economic implications of mining, we remain fully committed to the vital and important task of safeguarding the environment and of promoting social equity in all of our mining programs," Reyes said. *With a report from Reuters*

7-mo OFW . . .

From page B1

based workers also posted a double-digit growth of 12.8 percent during the month.

For the first seven months of 2006, total deployment reached 661,360 or 5 percent higher than that posted in the same period last year.

Of the cumulative seven-month deployment, 162,533 (24.6 percent) are sea-based workers, and 498,827 (75.4 percent) are land-based workers—up from last year by 14.4 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively.

"The continuing government and private sector initiatives to enhance workers' competence through skills upgrading, technical training and better education have contributed largely to the increasing preference for the Philippines as a source of skilled labor," the BSP said.

Citing the improved figures, the BSP said it was more confident of hitting the target of $11.9 billion in total remittances for the whole of the year compared to $10.7 billion in 2005.

Nurses enjoy the highest premium abroad, earning 16 times more than they could otherwise generate if they stayed in the country. Other lucrative occupations are: medical technicians, who can earn 10 times the local rates, computer programmers and engineers, who can each earn five times the local rates. *With a report from AFP*

Shares . . .

From page B1

Gainers led losers 61 to 23, with 54 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 1.72 billion shares worth P1.53 billion ($30.5 million).

At mid-day, the local currency was at 50.269 to the dollar.

PLDT advanced P60 to close at P2,110, accounting for about 37 percent of total turnover.

Other winners include Banco de Oro Universal Bank which rose 50 centavos to P38.

Ayala Corp. advanced P5 to P465 while unit Ayala Land Inc. gained 25 centavos to P14.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.'s A and B shares closed steady at P65 and P71, respectively. *AFP*

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913
TIN 000-716-369 - V
☎ (077) 784-00-82 / 784-71-26 local 818 ℻ No. 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF CONTRACTORS AND/OR SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) is inviting contractors and/or service providers for accreditation that can provide janitorial and security services needed in the operation of the cooperative

The following requirements are:

Letter of Intent, company profile, track records, technical and financial capability (latest Audited Financial Statement), creditor banks, bank references, BIR Certificates, DTI Registration and current business license

Required documents must be submitted to this office starting September 18-29, 2006 addressed to:

ENGR. ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL
General Manager
ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913

ATTENTION:

ENGR. EDWIN P. PASCUA
Chairman - Accreditation Committee
ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913

INEC reserves the right to reject any applicant, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the applicant for any expense or loss that the applicant may incur in applying for accreditation.

(Sgd.) ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL
General Manager

(PDI–Sept. 16 & 17, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF NFA HELICOPTER (BELL JET)

The National Food Authority Central Office invites all interested parties to bid for the NFA Bell Jet Helicopter, description of which is as follows:

Brand	Bell Helicopter Textron
Model Number	Bell 206B
Serial No.	259
Year Manufactured	1968
Registration No.	RP-1997
Specifications	5 seater, including 2 pilots, 2-bladed main rotor blade, powered by 400shp single engine, Allison Model 250-C20, Serial No. CAE-823181, complete with standard avionics. With expired Certificate of Registration and Airworthiness, grounded since May 2003.
Minimum Bid Price	FIVE MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00)

Bid proposals shall be on "as-is-where-is" basis. Offerors shall be required to post a bid security equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the minimum bid price. It shall either be in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check payable to NFA.

Bid documents, such as tender form, including terms and conditions shall be issued only to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable / non-transferable fee of P20,000.00 not later than 2:00 p.m. on September 28, 2006. For further details, you may contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone number 455-2758.

Activities relative to this bidding shall be held at the NFA Boardroom, 6th Floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Pre-Bid Conference – September 28, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
Receipt and Opening of Bids – October 12, 2006
Submission of Bids – 1:00 p.m..to 1:45 p.m.
Opening of Bids – 2:00 p.m.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to NFA. The decision of the Committee as confirmed by the BAC Chairperson shall be deemed final.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chairperson

(PDI – September 9 & 16, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE TWO-YEAR SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENTS OF LBP

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project stated below, under the following terms and conditions:

ITB No. / Cont. Package No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Non-Refundable Fee	Source of Funds
2006-207	Two-Year Security Services Requirements for the following areas:			
1	NCR-North of Pasig - 110 SGs	P 30,465,600.00	P 15,300.00	LBP Funds
2	NCR-South of Pasig - 124 SGs	34,343,040.00	17,200.00	LBP Funds
3	Cagayan & East Central Luzon - 67 SGs	13,227,240.00	6,700.00	LBP Funds
4	Laguna, South and West & Southern Luzon - 104 SGs	22,969,920.00	11,500.00	LBP Funds
5	Panay and Negros Islands - 66 SGs	12,117,600.00	6,100.00	LBP Funds
6	Central and East Visayas - 87 SGs	16,317,720.00	8,200.00	LBP Funds
7	Regions 10 and 11 - 107 SGs	20,121,720.00	10,100.00	LBP Funds
8	Regions 9 and 12 - 98 SGs	17,914,440.00	9,000.00	LBP Funds

The following suppliers may participate in the bidding:
- Suppliers with eligibility requirements prescribed under the IRR-A of RA 9184.
- Suppliers with experience in providing security services to a bank duly authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.
- Suppliers with no pending case against Land Bank of the Philippines or vice versa.
- Suppliers with profitable operation for the last three (3) years as evidenced by its submission of Audited Financial Statements for 2003, 2004 and 2005.
- Suppliers who have paid the required non-refundable fee amounting to .05% of the ABC of the applicable package, rounded off to the next hundredths.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on **October 18, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee as indicated opposite the contract package where supplier intends to bid.**

The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **September 26, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** at the 10th Floor, Function Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

(PDI – September 9 & 16, 2006)

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

Cebu bank bucks closure

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE BANK OF CEBU HAS accused the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) of grave abuse of discretion when they closed the bank last Aug. 31.

The bank filed last Tuesday a petition for certiorari before the Court of Appeals-Cebu and asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order to allow the Bank of Cebu to reopen.

The petitioners include Bank of Cebu president Ephraim Cuadra Salcedo; Ricardo Angeles who represented the Peninsula Equities and Realty Assets Inc., the majority stockholder; Danilo Lucas, a stockholder and a representative of the employees; and several depositors.

They noted that the bank, under new management, has been improving its operations over the past two years.

"It was a real shock to everyone that the bank was placed under receivership and petitioners question the basis for such action of the Monetary Board and BSP," Leopoldo Solano, chief of the bank's Branch Operations and one of the petitioners, said in an interview.

Until Aug. 31, the day when PDIC implemented receivership order, all the Bank of Cebu branches had been operating normally, the petitioners said.

"The bank had and has realizable assets to meet liabilities. And it has been able to continue its business without involving probable losses to its depositors or creditors," the petitioners said in their 35-page petition before the CA-Cebu.

They added that, based on their records, the bank is clean and debt free, and without any liability than deposit liabilities.

"In other words, the Bank is sound and being properly managed. It is very solvent," the petitioners added.

Solano told the INQUIRER the group was hoping for a favorable response from the CA.

He said the actions undertaken by the respondents destroyed their banks, the community and their depositors.

The Bank of Cebu has seven branches, a total of 7,800 depositors and over one hundred employees.

Transco auction schedule moved anew

New deadline for submission of bid requirements set for Sept. 28

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIAbilities Management Corp. (PSALM) has again extended by another two weeks to Sept. 28 the deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents required to take part in the auction of the 25-year National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession.

The move was prompted by the request of prospective investors for more time to prepare the required pre-qualification documents.

PSALM said it received at least five requests for another extension.

"We want to ensure that two or more parties will participate in the bidding. It will be most unfortunate if only one party will show up for the pre-qualification process because the bidding will automatically be declared a failure," PSALM president Nieves Osorio said in a statement yesterday.

Up for bidding is the contract to maintain and operate the national electricity transmission grid.

"We believe that all parties concerned will benefit if we make the terms of reference a lot clearer. We would like to assure all prospective participants in the Transco bidding that PSALM will maintain transparency in all stages of the transaction," she added.

One of the interested bidders, PSALM said, already had all the necessary pre-qualification documents in place.

However, its principal and prospective partners wanted a little more time to address requirements related to the technical and financial aspects of its bid.

Another bidder from Asia, sought an extension to accommodate a group that wanted to join the consortium that it was putting together to bid for the Transco concession.

It said in a letter to PSALM that its board of directors still had to discuss the request of the new group to join the consortium.

A financing group representing another prospective bidder from Asia sought a deadline extension as the organizational documents of one of the members of the bidding consortium were not yet available, PSALM related.

The documents that formed part of the pre-qualification requirements would come from as far as the United States and London, making it physically impossible to have them delivered by the Sept. 15 deadline, the financing group said.

Apart from granting the prospective bidders' request for an extension of the pre-qualification deadline, it had earlier decided to push back the actual bidding date to Nov. 7 from Sept. 27.

Super region plan seen helping Ecija economy

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—THE INclusion of Nueva Ecija in the proposed super regions is seen pushing the development of the province's agriculture-based businesses.

The northern part of Nueva Ecija is included in the North Luzon super region, while the southern part is included in the Metro Luzon urban beltway (Metro Luzon super region), according to Board Member Edward Thomas Joson.

Joson, who has been representing the province in the series of meetings on the super regions development programs, said eight big infrastructure projects have been lined up so far for Nueva Ecija.

These are the Cabanatuan bypass road project, Bongabon-Baler road construction (Phase 2), Gabaldon-Dingalan road project, Digdig, Carranglan-Dalton Pass-Aritao alignment, Carranglan wind power project, Balintingon dam project, Chico River control and flood mitigation project, and the San Isidro-Jaen junction-Maharlika road project.

Construction of farm-to-market roads was also included in the projects for Nueva Ecija.

Joson said the development of the super regions "provides a holistic approach to the economic development of the country."

"It is a macro view of development efforts where the participants work together for common goals," he said.

In connection with the development programs in Nueva Ecija, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced in her speech during the Nueva Ecija Day celebration on Sept. 2 that she had authorized the release of P5 billion for the irrigation component of the Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP).

The amount, she said, would be released over five years.

Ms Arroyo said developments in Nueva Ecija, which is the country's leader in palay production, would focus on building industries.

"We are envisioning the establishment of industries in the populous areas in the southern part of Nueva Ecija like Gapan and Cabanatuan cities. That's why we have also included the province in the Metro Luzon urban beltway," she said.

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Southern Mindanao
*Bajada, Davao City *Tagum *Matina, Davao City
*General Santos *Cotabato *Zamboanga

The exciting new shades of BMW take shape with the new BMW 1 and 3 Series Limited Edition models.
Revealed at the BMW Xpo. September 15 to 17, 2006 at the BMW Pavilion, Bonifacio Global City.
BMW Xpo Experience
• Featuring the latest BMW Models
September 15, 2006, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
September 16 & 17, 2006, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
• The new shades of BMW, interpreted in fashion by Rajo Laurel
September 15, 2006, 7:00 pm
Special Event Offers
• Limited Edition BMW tag watches for test drives
• As low as 10% downpayment and up to 7 Years financing term for all brand new BMW models.
• As low as 10% downpayment and up to 5 Years financing term for pre-owned BMW models.
BMW Products
• The new BMW 1 Series and 3 Series Limited Edition models revealed.
• The new BMW Z4 unveiled.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
PASCO-CERTEZA COMPUTER MAPPING CORP. 23/F, Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Isao Sato	Technical Adviser
CHINA GEO-ENGINEERING (PHIL.) CORP. 15 Mindanao St., Marina Baytown East Subd., Parañaque City	Peng Li	General Manager/ Chief Representative
MATAHARI STUDIOS (PHILS.), INC. Unit 3203 Robinson's Equitable Towers, 4 ADB Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	David Eric Marlow	Vice President/ General Manager
WEALTHY LEGEND CORPORATION U-1705 Pycoon Center, Pearl Drive Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Haibiao Feng	Manager
WEALTHY LEGEND CORPORATION U-1705 Pycoon Center, Pearl Drive Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Weiping Zhuang	Asst. Manager
GOLDEN BAY FOODS CORPORATION G/F, Greenbelt II, Makati City	Guihua Zheng	Chef
PSC INFO TECHNOLOGY, INC. 31 Anchorage St., Merville, Parañaque City	Maryana	Marketing Director-I. Market
WEALTHY LEGEND CORPORATION U-1705 Pycoon Center, Pearl Drive Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Nengchao Dai	Supervisor
PSC INFO TECHNOLOGY, INC. 31 Anchorage St., Merville, Parañaque City	Muhamad Ahsyanul Furqon	Data Input Manager
123YY & 123QQ CO., INC. 200 Fresno St., Pasay City	Yanzhong Ren	Marketing Manager
PSC INFO TECHNOLOGY, INC. 31 Anchorage St., Merville, Parañaque City	Marry	System Editor-Manager
PSC INFO TECHNOLOGY, INC. 31 Anchorage St., Merville, Parañaque City	Andri Hermawan	System Engineer-VP
PSC INFO TECHNOLOGY, INC. 31 Anchorage St., Merville, Parañaque City	Andrie Tan	Data Analyst-Asst. Supervisor
ICT MARKETING SERVICES OF ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD. 19/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Dwayne William Calder	Operations Manager
ICT MARKETING SERVICES OF ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD. 19/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Simon John Ritter	Operations Manager
PSC INFO TECHNOLOGY, INC. 31 Anchorage St., Merville, Parañaque City	Bernard Andrijanto	Data Analyst-Supervisor
ICT MARKETING SERVICES OF ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD. 19/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jon Anthony Aguire	Operations Manager
ICT MARKETING SERVICES OF ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD. 19/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Trina Stone	Operations Manager
ICT MARKETING SERVICES OF ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD. 19/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Susan Maria Willimont	Operations Manager
ICT MARKETING SERVICES OF ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD. 19/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Deanna Darlene Deem	Operations Manager
WEALTHY LEGEND CORPORATION U-1705 Pycoon Center, Pearl Drive Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jianping Zhu	General Manager
GUI-MADANG RESTAURANT 210 Menlo St., Brgy. 033, Pasay City	See Hee Kim	Operations Manager
CARRIER INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 39/F, Union Bank Plaza, Meralco cor. Onyx St., Ortigas Ctr., San Antonio, Pasig City	Eunjeong Kim	Administrator-Korea Account
ROBERT BOSCH, INC. 14/F, I.V. Locsin Bldg., 6762 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Franz Roland Odenthal	Director, President Managing Director
CITRA METRO MANILA TOLLWAYS CORPORATION 23/F, One Magnificent Mile-CITRA Bldg. San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Ctr. Pasig City	Nadiya Windiyani Stamboel	Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Finance

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 16. 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
TransCo

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply of Security Services for Offices, Facilities and Assets of Transco, South Luzon Operations & Maintenance [TRANS-06-SEC-EBD-03]

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, South Luzon Operation & Maintenance (TRANSCO-SLOM)* through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Php107,972,048.16* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) (for 2 years) to payments under the contract for *TRANS-06-SEC-EBD-03 (Supply of Security Services for Offices, Facilities and Assets of TransCo, South Luzon Operations & Maintenance.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the Supply of Security Services for Offices, Facilities and Assets of TransCo, South Luzon Operations and Maintenance.* Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all Security Agencies who are:
   a) Wholly owned Filipino private Security Agency.
   b) Actively registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
   c) Holder of regular License to Operate issued by the Security Agency and Guards Supervisory Division (SAGSD), Philippine National Police (PNP).
   d) Has been operating for the last five (5) years and have actually and continuously posted at least two hundred guards during the past two (2) years immediately preceding the submission of eligibility documents.

Delivery of the SERVICES is required *as listed below.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Package No.	ABC	Location	No. of Guards
Package I	Php43,737,754.08 (for 2 years)	Biñan, SLOM	45
		Dasmariñas S/S	39
		Rosario S/S	6
		Balangas S/S	28
		Tagaytay S/S	3
		Ternate S/S	6
		Mt. Tamayo R/S	3
		Zapote S/S	9
Total No. of Guards			140

Package No.	ABC	Location	No. of Guards
Package II	Php36,266,544.88 (for 2 years)	Sucat S/S	15
		Calamba S/S	9
		Los Baños S/S	3
		Mt. Mavunong R/S	3
		Kalayaan EHV S/S	12
		Kalayaan Central Warehouse	15
		Mak-Ban S/S	15
		Fami S/S	3
		Tayabas S/S	42
		Gumaca S/S	21
Total No. of Guards			138

Package No.	ABC	Location	No. of Guards
Package III	Php25,967,749.20 (for 2 years)	Naga S/S	30
		Naga Converter	12
		Daraga S/S	35
		HVDC Sta Magdalena	3
		HVDC Calabanga	6
		Balogo S/S	3
		Loabo S/S	19
		Dagut R/S	3
Total No. of Guards			111

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from National Transmission Corporation-South Luzon Operations & Maintenance (SLOM) Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO) and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00A.M. to 5:00 P.M on *September 12-October 03, 2006.*
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from *September 12-October 03, 2006* at the address below and upon submission of letter of intent and payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php1,000.00 per package.* The method of payment will be *Cash.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.* at *the address below*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *October 19, 2006, 9:30 A.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form stated in Section III Instructions to Bidders Clause 22 of the Tender Documents in Philippine peso or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *October 19, 2006 / 9:30 A. M.* at the *OAVP Conference Room B, same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

National Transmission Corporation, SLOM
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera, BAC Chairman
Regional Contracts Management Office
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna
Tel No. (02) 981-4576 local 4007, 4094, 4053
Website : www.transco.ph

RUBEN G. CASTUERA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee/
Dept. Manager, PSMD South

(PDI–Sept. 9 & 16. 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

IAEB No. 2006-028 - Goods

Purchase of Additional Supplies and Materials for the 2nd Semester of CY2006

1. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM***, through the Office Services Department Bulk Purchase intends to apply the sum of P4,238,142.86 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Purchase of Additional Supplies and Materials for 2006 2nd Semester Bulk Purchase Requirement on a per category basis broken down as follows:

Category		Approved Budget for the Contract
➢ Paper and Paper Products	–	P 26,310.70
➢ EDP Supplies/TSF	–	P 4,118,232.16
➢ Printed Forms	–	P 93,600.00
TOTAL		P 4,238,142.86

2. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Additional Supplies and Materials for CY 2006 2nd Semester Bulk Purchase. Delivery of the GOODS is on a staggered basis but not to exceed four (4) months after the signing/ receipt of purchase order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure, on a per item per category basis.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8 AM to 5 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee based on the highest ABC among the category where the bidder intends to participate in as follows:

Category		Amount of the bidding documents
➢ Paper and Paper Products	–	P 500.00
➢ EDP Supplies/TSF	–	P 2,500.00
➢ Printed Forms	–	P 500.00

The method of payment will be on a cash basis, payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg. Ground Floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 25, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on *October 09, 2006 not later than 2:00 p.m.*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in a form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *October 09, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.
9. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – September 16. 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Supply and Installation of various Gym and Recreational Equipment for the SPC Recreational and Sports Center, 3rd Floor, Bldg. E, Security Plant Complex, BSP East Avenue, Q.C., per BSP floor plans and standard technical specifications, as follows:

		Approved Budget for the Contract
1.	One (1) unit Heavy-Duty Motorized Treadmill	P 597,000.00
2.	One (1) unit Multi-Press Machine	140,000.00
3.	One (1) unit Dual Adjustable Pulley	400,000.00
4.	One (1) unit Smith Machine	234,000.00
5.	Two (2) units Olympic Bench Press Set	106,000.00
6.	Two (2) units Flat Bench	57,000.00
7.	One (1) unit Recumbent Indoor Rowing Machine	135,000.00
8.	One (1) unit Elliptical Cross Trainer	415,000.00
9.	Eighteen (18) units Large Aerobic Steps	144,000.00
10.	One (1) lot Barbell Plates (various weights)	336,000.00
11.	One (1) set Steel Plate Racking for 7 sets of various sizes of barbell plates, powder-coated	55,000.00
12.	Six (6) sets 5' Olympic bars, straight black oxide or hard chrome finish with collar, rubber coated steel end cap, pressed-in maintenance free bushing on rotating barrels, medium knurl chrome, easy curl with insert number plate	72,000.00
13.	One (1) lot Dumbbells (various weights) with Steel Cabinet or racking	210,000.00
14.	Two (2) sets Table Tennis tables complete with accessories (4 rackets, one dozen balls, two nets, four clamps, etc.)	39,000.00
15.	One (1) lot Billiard Tables complete with accessories (billiard cloth, one set billiard balls, 4 pcs. billiard cues, 2 pcs. billiard cue rack, one pc. billiard triangle, 1 pc. billiard cue bridge, one dozen billiard chalk, 1 pc. billiard plastic table cover)	185,000.00
16.	Four (4) lot Chess Tables complete with accessories (8 chairs, 4 chess sets, 4 chess clocks)	32,000.00
17.	One (1) lot Standard Pool Table complete with accessories (12 pcs. wooden chips, 4 pool cues, 1 box pool powder)	51,000.00
18.	Two (2) sets Dart Board complete with accessories (6 sets dart pins, 2 scoreboards and other accessories)	7,000.00

Delivery Period: Within eighty-five (85) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract.

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	18 September - 5 October 2006 up to 2:00 PM
2. Pre-bid Conference	6 October 2006 at 11:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids	24 October 2006 at 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed
5. Post-qualification	) periods allowed in the Implementing Rules &
6. Notice of Award	) Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated) 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 or 0.05% of the total ABC's of items to be bid out whichever is higher, to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 16. 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) as authorized under SRA Board Resolution No. 2006-073 dated July 6, 2006, invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of labor, materials and equipment in behalf of the Philippine Sugar Corporation (PHILSUCOR) for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Supply of Labor, Materials and Equipment for the Renovation of Philippine Sugar Corporation (PHILSUCOR) Office including the repair of ceiling of the area for lease.
Location	Unit 1405 Security Bank Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Approved Budget for the Contract	Php 1.587 M
Contract Duration	90 days
PCAB License	Small B

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct a post-qualification evaluation of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of the Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities during office hours is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Sept. 11-25, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Sept. 11-25, 2006
3.	Deadline for submission of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 28, 2006
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Oct. 3, 2006
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 3-6, 2006
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 10, 2006
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	Oct. 23, 2006

The time of the Pre-Bid Conference and the Receipt and Opening of Bids shall be at 9:00 A.M on the specified dates and the corresponding venue shall be at the SRA Training Room, North Avenue Diliman, Quezon City.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at its BAC SECRETARIAT, SRA Annex Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, upon their submission of LOI, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00 to the SRA Treasury Division, Quezon City. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

For particulars, please contact — BAC Secretariat
Tel. No. 929-6837

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to Bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,500.00 to the SRA Treasury Division.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – September 9 & 16, 2006)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

PHYSICAL RESOURCES DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites all interested parties to submit offers to the Manager, Materials and Supplies Department, Level I, Core B, New GSIS Headquarters Building, Pasay City for the Negotiated Sale of the following motor vehicles on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis until September 18, 2006.

Quantity	Description
Two (2)	Alfa Romeo, model 2002, plate no. SFX-872 and SFX-882, gasoline engine
One (1)	Mitsubishi Pajero, model 1999, Intercooler Turbo 1800, plate no. SGY-376, diesel engine
One (1)	Toyota Corona, model 1992, plate no. SEP-366
One (1)	Toyota Corona, model 1980, plate no. SAS-952

The above items may be inspected at the New GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City during office hours. For further inquiry please contact Mr. Ernesto Lopez at Tel nos. 891-62-95 or 891-6161 loc 4721.

The GSIS/PRDC reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defect/s or informality of the offers received, to accept the offer most advantageous to the System; and does not guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of the GSIS/PRDC in this regard shall be final and binding.

(SGD) ARNALDO C. CUASAY
Chairperson

(PDI--Sept. 6, 9 & 16, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
11TH Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 10, Davao City

IN RE : CORPORATE REHABILITATION OF FERRO STEEL, INC.,
–versus–
FERRO STEEL, INC.,
Petitioner.
SP.PROC. NO. 8772-06
x----------x

STAY ORDER

Petitioner, on August 23, 2006, filed herein petition alleging that it is a corporation with principal office address at Zone 1, Barrio Ilang, Km. 14, Davao City; that since its incorporation, it had been viable and financially profitable processing steel billets by the second half of year 1998 to mid-2006; that because of the Asian financial crisis, devaluation of the peso, and the continuing rise in the price of bunker oil, a rapid deterioration of its financial stability and inability to pay its debts ensued; that because petitioner's liquidity position is tight, it foresees the impossibility of meeting its maturing debts when they fall due and, in fact, it has already defaulted in its obligation with a Taiwanese lender and has recently failed to service its debts to banks; that since the obligations would not be met, problems will arise that would impair the operation of the petitioner and its effort to rehabilitate its business; that the Taiwanese lender is now threatening to foreclose on its mortgages and that although there is no pending court action against herein petitioner in any judicial or quasi-judicial body, there is reasonable ground to believe that some way may be forthcoming; but, notwithstanding its current financial difficulties, petitioner believes that it still has a financially sound and viable business which can and should be returned to financial health by the implementation of its proposed Rehabilitation Plans. Hence, it is presenting Options 1 and 2 of its Rehabilitation Plans for approval of tis creditors as well as the Court.

Finding the petition together with its annexes sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby:

1. Appoints Atty. Ruben C. Ladia of Pasig City, Metro Manila, as Rehabilitation Receiver with a bond in the amount of ONE MILLION (Php1,000,000.00) PESOS;
2. Stays the enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor;
3. Prohibits petitioner from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;
4. Prohibits petitioner from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of filing of the petition;
5. Prohibits the debtor's suppliers of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the debtor makes payment for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of the Stay Order;
6. Directs the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of the Stay Order;
7. Fixes the initial hearing of the petition on October 30, 2006, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning;
8. Directs petitioner to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks starting not later than seven (7) days from the issuance of this Order;
9. Directs all creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) to file and serve with the court and on the petitioner a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing and putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings;
10. Directing the creditors and interested parties to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes to enable them to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the initial hearing on October 30, 2006, otherwise they will be barred form participating in the proceedings of this case.

The petitioner is hereby directed to immediately serve a copy of this Order and the Petition (with annexes) on the Rehabilitation Receiver appointed by the Court, Atty. Ruben C. Ladia of Pasig City, Metro Manila, who is requested to manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment and if he accepts said appointment, to take his oath before the Branch Clerk of Court of this Court and post the corresponding bond as aforementioned in favor of the petitioner to guarantee the faithful performance of his functions as receiver, not later than ten (10) days from receipt of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

GIVEN IN CHAMBERS this 24th day of August 2006, at Davao City, Philippines

(Sgd.) **JAIME V. QUITAIN**
JUDGE

JVQ.map082406
Copy furnished:

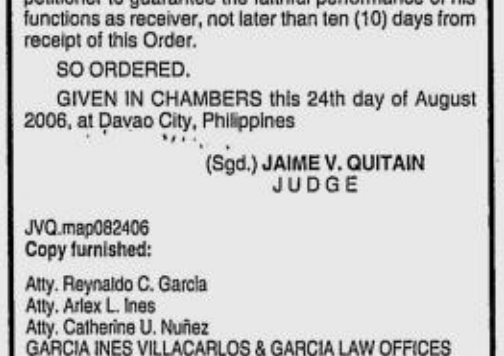
Atty. Reynaldo C. Garcia
Atty. Arlex L. Ines
Atty. Catherine U. Nuñez
GARCIA INES VILLACARLOS & GARCIA LAW OFFICES
205 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City

Atty. Ruben C. Ladia
KINTANAR JAMON PARUNGO & LADIA LAW FIRM
11th Floor, Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Securities and Exchange Commission
Juna Subdivision, Matina
Davao City

Office of the Clerk of Court
Hall of Justice
Ecoland, Davao City

(PDI–Sept. 9 & 16, 2006)



PASADENA VILLAS
380 N. Domingo St., San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 727-7941; 523-6640; 561-5520

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8040484

PCCI

14th AKU & 364th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOG SHOW
Tiendesitas En Fontera
Verde, Ortigas Cor C-5
Pasig City
Sept. 16 & 17, 2006
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. Jussel Domon (Japan)
Ms. Sue Monk (Australia)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
FCI GROUPINGS
Sat-AM-Schedule
(Sept. 16, 2006)
TERRIERS, DACHSHUNDS
RETRIEVERS-
FLASHING DOGS
SIGHTHOUNDS
SATURDAY AFTERNOON
COMPANION &
TOY DOGS
SCENT HOUNDS &
RELATED BREEDS
Sunday AM Sept. 17, 2006
SHEEPDOGS &
CATTLE DOGS
SPITZ & PRIMITIVE TYPES
SUNDAY AFTERNOON
PINCHERS &
SCHNAUZERS

SPONSORS:
NATURAL PET CORP PHIL
PRO PLAN DOG FOOD
HILLS SCIENCE DIET
PEDIGREE DOG FOOD

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Clutch Elements and Spare Parts under FDB 63451
Approved Budget: PHP 2,867,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **September 15, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on September 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time)** of October 11, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI–Sept. 16 & 23, 2006)

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 9,301,224 69 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Construction of Proposed Perimeter Fence at MEZ.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now calls for the submission of **Letter of Intent (LOIs) and certified copy of Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration** from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for the construction of the Perimeter Fence at Mactan Economic Zone.
3. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a single similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested bidders must submit their LOIs and certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration not later than **September 25, 2006** at the address given below and **secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000.00.** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the **date of the opening of Eligibility Documents, 3 p.m., September 28, 2006** at the address given below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
5. **Interested bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at 2/Flr. PEZA Administration Bldg., Mactan Economic Zone, Lapu-Lapu City on or before 3:00 p.m. of September 28, 2006.**
6. **Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 18-25, 2006.**
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of PhP5,000.00. **The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 5:00 p.m. of October 5, 2006.**
8. The PEZA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 6, 2006, at 2:00 p.m.** at the address given below.
9. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **2:00 p.m. of October 19, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted. **Bid opening shall be on October 19, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
10. In case any of the above date/s is declared as a non-working holiday it will automatically be rescheduled on the next working day (same time).
11. Completion of the Works is required within **120 calendar days** from date of receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
12. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE
6015 Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. nos. (032) 340-0590 to 93
Fax Nos. (032) 340-0594 to 95
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

(Sgd.) BELENA B. SUELLO
MEZ BAC Chairperson

(PDI–Sept. 16 & 25, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

We, the family of

Rodolfo Tadiar Asperilla

who was enfolded by our Lord's eternal embrace on August 27, 2006

wish to express our deep gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all of you, dear family and friends, who were with us in our time of sorrow. Your prayers, generosity, and many acts of kindness were balm for our pain and great blessings. May God's unending grace abound in your lives unceasingly.

In Loving Memory
of
Our Beloved
PAPA

Col. (Ret.) Federico L. Salcedo, Sr.

(July 18, 1919 - September 16, 2004)

His loving children **Marisol** & **Steven**; grandchildren & great grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul on his

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at the following churches:

The Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help ... 6:45 AM
The Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia ..... 8:00 AM
San Fernando de Dilao Parish ..... 6:30 PM
St. Peter the Apostle Church ..... 6:00 PM
The Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus ..... 12:15 PM
Our Lady of Remedies Parish ..... 7:00 AM
Immaculate Concepcion Chapel, PGH ..... 6:30 AM
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish ... 12:00 PM

"I am the resurrection and the life". He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; (John 11:25)

ANGELUM RAMIREZ TAOTJO

of Asturias, Cebu

Peacefully joined our LORD on September 13, 2006 at the age of 80.

The bereaved family, wife **ALMA VIVA**, children: **CECIL** and **ANDRO (LITONG)**, **RAYMUND** and **LORNA**, **MAXIMO**, **HAMABAR** and **AMELLYN**, **SULLIMAN** and **DELIA**, **ROCHELLE** and **RAFFY (AUSTRIA)**; grandchildren, sisters, dear relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at San Fernandeo Funeral Homes, Marawoy, Lipa City.

Funeral mass shall be on Sunday, 2:00 pm, September 17, 2006 at the Sto. Niño Parish Church, Marawoy, Lipa City. Interment will follow at Eternal Garden, Lipa City.

Death Notice

ARTHUR MERCENE ROSALES

peacefully joined our Lord on September 10, 2006 at the age of 70.

His remains lie in state at Rosales residence in Mamburao Occidental Mindoro. Interment will be on 16 September, 2006 at the New Cemetery, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro at 2:00 p.m.

The Family of
Aida J. Carrillo
announce with deep sorrow the passing away of her beloved **Tia** and **Nanny** to her and her five children.

TRANQUILINA A. SANDOVAL

(August 11, 1918 – September 14, 2006)

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe, Makati. Cremation will be on Sunday, 17 September 2006 after the 7 AM Mass.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

Magdalena Panganiban Natividad

Born: February 11, 1924
Died: September 14, 2006

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children **Butch** & **Amy**, **Mae** & **Vincent**; grandchildren **Anna**, **Jun**, **Mellaine**, **Tina Dolor**, **Kirk**, **Kelsy**, **Kenneth**, **Kaitlin**, **Chirstenn**, **Margaret**; friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Don Bosco Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

ckalagayan@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 238

Tin Hau-inspired cuisine on PAL flights

FOOD LOVERS AND AVOWED GOURMETS, who are flying from Manila to Hong Kong, Xiamen, Shanghai, Taipei and Singapore on Philippine Airlines in September, begin their gastronomic experience inflight, as the national carrier presents cuisine inspired by Tin Hau, Mandarin Oriental, Manila's top-rated Chinese restaurant.

Throughout this month, stylish a la carte menus that proffer the creations of Tin Hau executive Chinese chef Hann Furn Chen are served on flights of Asia's oldest airline, out of Manila to the five key destinations.

The menus include five sumptuous dishes, namely: a trio of scallops with fish roe sauce, drunken chicken in green ginger sauce and braised vegetables, and mushroom silk wrapped with pan-seared bean curd skin; as appetizer; three entrée choices, served with X.O. sauce -- Wok Beef or Pork Spareribs complemented by black pepper sauce, and stir-fried green beans with mixed bell peppers, Japanese rice with green onions; Steamed chicken accented by ginger and leek in Shao Xing wine, young spinach with diced tofu, sliced mushrooms and traditional Beijing noodles; and Steamed cod fish with bean crumbs, topped with tow pan paste, and served with broccoli and asparagus with salted egg yolk sauce, and wok fried rice with seafood; and for dessert, Empress Tea, a sweet white fungus soup enhanced with Asian fruits and quail eggs.

"We are delighted to team up with PAL's inflight kitchen and catering service in this pioneering effort on the part of Tin-Hau to offer some of its chic and stylish dishes as an inflight cuisine," says David Thomas, Mandarin Oriental, Manila's executive assistant manager-food and beverage, adding that the venture coincides with the introduction of new exciting menus at Tin Hau.

The close collaboration is in keeping with Mandarin Oriental, Manila and Philippine Airlines' common commitment to customer satisfaction and service quality, which entailed a series of meetings between chef Chen and PAL's executive chef Ian MacKenzie and Criselda Rayos, manager-inflight food standards division. PAL's vice president-marketing support Felix J Cruz adds, "We are proud to present a fine dining experience in the air with the quality cuisine of Tin Hau. This venture not only enhances our dining service, but it also gives us the excellent opportunity to present another dimension to our fine inflight cuisine."

Dusit gourmet unveils signature cake

LETTING YOURSELF LOOSE TO SUSTAIN your appetite for sweet cravings is a recommended luxury. Indeed, life gets better or at least we feel better, with sweet indulgence. For this reason, Dusit Hotel Nikko has created a luscious dessert to satisfy your most insatiable desire for sweet temptations and offers the "Chocolate Mango Cake" signature cake.

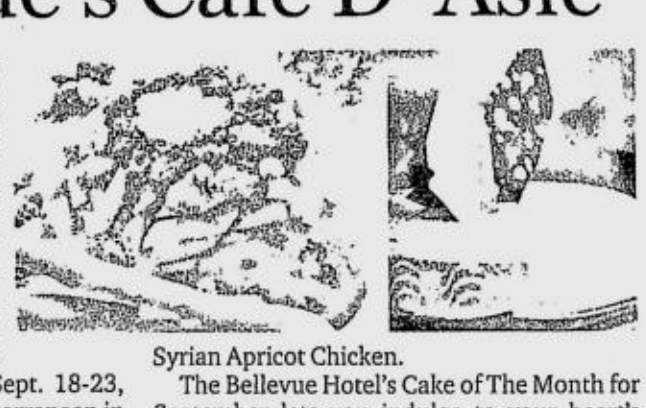
Embrace the stylish interplay of chocolate and mango with a unique Asian flair, where the most seductive form of the chocolate cake has taken shape ready to excite you. A taste of this moving chocolate ganaché symphony attuned by mangoes, an affluent serving of creamy chocolate and balanced by roasted cashew nuts will keep you breathless. It is also the most divine which is proven by the soft, luscious chocolate cake enhanced by the flavor and aroma of pandan leaves, vanilla extract and rum passionately created by award-winning pastry chef Connie Condeno.

Take pleasure in this elegantly divine signature dessert of Dusit Gourmet for only P680 nett. An order of the Dusit Signature Cake comes in a unique wooden package making it a delightful gift item.

For inquiries, call 867-3333. Please place your orders at least a day in advance.

Mediterranean cruisin' at Bellevue's Café D' Asie

GO ON A MEDITERRANEAN cruise through amazing cuisines and delectable dishes at The Bellevue Hotel's main dining outlet, the Café D' Asie. The food hub and gastronome getaway of the southern Metro Manila takes you to the magic of Mediterranean cuisine, characterized by its flexibility, range of ingredients and many regional variations in sumptuous and filling buffets. From Sept. 18-23, sample the taste of the West Mediterranean in Spanish, French and Italian dishes such as Zarzuela de Mariscos, Arroz con Pollo, Paupiette de Boeuf, Quennelles de Langoustine and Caldereta de Cordero. On Sept. 25-30, take a trip to the Eastern Mediterranean countries of Greece, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt with dishes such as Greek Shrimps, Kofta Kebab, Eggplant Mousakah, Greek Spanakopitas and Syrian Apricot Chicken.



The Bellevue Hotel's Cake of The Month for September lets you indulge to your heart's content while savoring the healthy benefits of green tea. The Green Tea Tiramisu puts a unique spin to traditional tiramisu by infusing it with the flavoursome essence of green tea, known as an effective antioxidant. Enjoy it with coffee while hanging out at Bellevue's Pastry Corner, or bring a box home for the whole family. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Exhilarating banquets at City Garden Hotel – Makati

THE ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED CITY GARden Hotel Makati, presents banquet packages geared to take away the hassles and stress of doing it on your own. Party packages goes for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks. Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrangements, and other amenities. Receptions venues may be held at its cozy, fully–equipped function rooms or at the al fresco Roofdeck, with a wonderful view of the metropolis. Hold your party on a weekday and enjoy further discount of almost 10-30 percent from the package.

For those one-on-one meetings, it has two restaurants that you can choose from. For this month, Le Jardin Restaurant, with its warm and relaxing dining experience, and its more popular Roofdeck Bar and Grill that gives you a cozy dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline, is offering its Chef's Special of "Ribs BBQ & Grills". Enjoy mouth-watering steaks, ribs and lamb chops garnished with corn on a cob, grilled onions, tomato and aubergine.

Accessibility is also not a problem as the hotel is just five minutes from the Rockwell and Glorietta malls and the Makati Commercial and Business District. As an added amenity, the hotel is offering free scheduled shuttle service to the Makati CBD.

City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .

Where to Stay Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Astoria Plaza
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

CSB HOTEL
Arellano Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401
Email: customerservice@csbhotel.com

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinto St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

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1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skylnet.net

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
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Hotel Veniz
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Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skylnet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Intercontinental Manila
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www.intercontinental.com

Las Palmas Hotel Manila
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Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax: : (63.2) 728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Palm Plaza Hotel
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Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmplazahotel.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/Fax (082) 225-1888

Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Kaputian Island Garden, City of Samal
Tel. (082) 221-9970 to 73
Manila: (02) 750-1896 /Fax (082) 221-9979

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

SUMMER PLACE HOTEL
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Taal Vista Hotel
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Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

People, Events & Products

All aboard for Cebu!

THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL group or AIG, the global financial services conglomerate, through its local savings partner Philam Plans Inc, will be embarking on a National Sales Celebration in the island city of Mactan, Cebu, this coming Sept. 21 to 23. The top producers and leaders of the agency force will be invited to this celebration. Jack I. Howell, the new president and CEO of Philam Plans will be leading the sales force in the national celebration which also marks the kick off of the new Philam Plans Company. Philam Plans, backed by AIG's dominant strength and leadership in the financial services industry around the globe, commits itself to be the future savings partner of the Filipino. "We would like to celebrate this vision with our sales leaders and top producers --- we want them to embark on this momentous journey with us as we move forward towards our mission to becoming the future savings experts for the Filipino people", Howell explains. Aside from other AIG notables joining the celebration, the keynote speaker will feature Mr. David F. Pierce, vice president of marketing operations AIA, AIG's affiliate in Hong Kong. The presence and support of AIG top management confirms their belief in the Philippine market, and strengthens their support of Philam Plans. The qualified sales leaders and producers will be flown in from all over the Philippines and booked in a top beach resort for 3 days. Joining them would be the ambassadors of Philam, Vince and Patricia Hizon, who have been staunch endorsers of Philam Plans' education plans for they believe that saving for your children's education is a top priority of every family.

ACER PHILIPPINES PROMO WINNERS

Acer Philippines, one of the leading branded PC vendors in the world recently concluded the 'Win with Acer - Enjoy Life Promo'. Two 1st prize winners, Luis Penson and Veronica Ubias each won round-trip tickets for 2 to the USA, inclusive of a whole day of fun and adventure at the Universal Studios and Disneyland and 4-days, 3-nights hotel accommodation. Second prize, Acer TravelMate 3022WTMi Pearl White 'White Angel' notebooks were won by Dante R. Pagkatipunan, Allan Ybiosa and Jodan Fuentes. Ten winners were drawn for Sony Ericsson W550i mobile phones as 3rd prize, 15 winners for Canon Powershot A430 digital cameras and 20 1GB iPod nano MP3 players for the 4th and 5th prizes respectively. Photo shows 1st prize winners with Agnes Neria-Espino, marketing manager of Acer Philippines (first from left) and Manuel Wong, general manager, Acer Phils. (far right).

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: Inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Delaying or preventing type 2 diabetes may soon be possible

By Charles E. Buban

DIABETES IS ONE OF THE greatest health challenges facing the world. With some 194 million people currently diagnosed, the International Diabetes Federation estimates that if nothing is done to arrest its progress, the number of diabetic individuals will reach 330 million within 25 years.

. Of the disease's two main forms, type 2 diabetes is the most common, accounting for 90 percent to 95 percent (or an estimated 140 million people) of those with diabetes.

"In type 2 diabetes, the body has a relative lack of insulin or the insulin secreted is unable to do its job properly. Either way, this causes a rise in blood sugar and without proper management this condition can lead to various complications such as cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, blindness and nerve damage," informed Sanofi-Aventis Philippines senior medical adviser Dr. May Pagunsan.

Afflicting younger population

She explained that while type 2 diabetes generally occurs in people 40 years and older, the last few years, saw type 2 diabetes afflicting a much younger population and causing more and more premature disability and death.

Aside from being overweight, another factor that contributes to the likelihood of someone developing this type of diabetes is having an impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) or impaired fasting glucose (IFG), which are both prediabetes conditions in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed as type 2 diabetes.

Patients with IGT or IFG have a significant risk of developing diabetes (as well as cardiovascular disease than those with normal glucose tolerance) and thus are an important target group for primary prevention.

At present, the only therapies known to reduce the risk of diabetes in individuals with IGT or IFG are weight loss and exercise.

But this may soon change.

Landmark study

A few years ago, the landmark Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation (HOPE) study tested a medication called ramipril (marketed here as Tritace), commonly used to lower blood pressure, to see if it could reduce stroke, heart attacks and death from cardiovascular disease in high risk patients, which it did.

Ramipril belongs to a class of drugs called angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors that is now approved for the prevention of stroke, heart attack and cardiovascular death in people at high risk for cardiovascular events.

But what was interesting in that study was that ramipril also prevented the development of new diabetes by 34 percent.

This finding increased hope that this medication may also be used to prevent diabetes in high-risk patients, hence the Diabetes REduction Assessment with Ramipril and Rosiglitazone Medications was initiated in 2001.

Delay or prevent diabetes?

"The DREAM study is designed to determine whether rosiglitazone (a drug used for the treatment of type 2 diabetes) and ramipril (Tritace was used in the study), used alone or together can delay or prevent the development of type 2 diabetes in those who have IGT and/or IFG," Pagunsan explained.

The doctor said that should this study confirm the diabetes-preventing effect of ramipril, there would then be a medicine available for preventing the onset of diabetes as well as its complications.

The highly anticipated results from the DREAM trial will be unveiled at the annual European Association for the Study of Diabetes conference (in Copenhagen, Denmark) this week.

'hESC lines in the sand'

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

LAST OCTOBER ROBERT LANZA and his colleagues at Advanced Cell Technology announced that they had developed a way to obtain embryonic stem (ES) cells and develop ES cell lines without harming the embryo itself. The researchers extracted a single cell from a mouse morula—an eight-cell embryo—and then surrounded the single cell with preexisting ES cells and let the cells grow in culture. In the meantime, the now 7-cell morula was implanted into a surrogate mother mouse and was found to develop normally.

Last month in the journal Nature, Advanced Cell Technology announced they had successfully duplicated the above-mentioned process in human embryos. The brief article from Kliminskaya et al. notes that 16 unused human embryos produced by *in vitro fertilization* were obtained with full informed consent. As before, a blastomere was removed from each eight-cell embryo and was allowed to grow in the same medium together with the other extracted cells. Over the next several days the researchers found that the cultured cells were behaving just like previously established human ES cell (hESC) lines, with some cells differentiating while others—true ES cells—remained undifferentiated.

"Here we demonstrate that single blastomeres can be used to establish hES cell lines using an approach that does not interfere with the developmental capacity of the parent embryo," Kliminskaya et al. noted in their paper.

Use of human embryos

Given that they used human ES cells for this study, it is not surprising that Lanza et al.'s new paper has been met with more controversy than the one from last year. The use of human embryos in any experiments is not popular with several sectors of society, including the Catholic Church.

Though Lanza et al. had tried to develop a technique that would keep the embryo viable despite extracting a cell, unfortunately this time they used too many cells to establish the 2 hESC lines. All in all, 91 of the 128 cells from all 16 embryos were used, which meant that the embryos were no longer viable by the completion of the study. Still, Lanza notes, their work proves that it is possible to develop a hESC line from a single cell.

And yet, if the end goal of researchers like Lanza is to develop more hESC lines that can be used to study the possible benefits of stem cells, then maybe the issue of using human embryos is just the first hurdle. One of last July's articles in the journal Human Molecular Genetics raises the question of whether or not ES cells from hESC lines maintained for long periods of time differentiate into specific cells which may not behave like other cells.

Neural cells

For the study, Yin Shen and colleagues from the Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Medicine at UCLA took hESCs from the National Institute of Health (NIH) hESC line HSF6 and directed them into becoming neural cells. Researchers then assayed the CpG islands in the neural cells for genetic abnormalities and found that a small fraction of the CpG islands (65 out of 4608) had increased DNA methylation.

Why does this matter? CpG islands are short DNA sequences that are rich in CG pairs, hence the name. They are often found around promoters of genes that are important for cell function and aren't usually methylated unless the genes are inactivated. If the CpG islands are methylated on genes that should be active however, this could affect the cell's functions. If cells derived from the hESC line cannot actually function like the cells they are being differentiated into, then this would be a setback in the promise of what stem cell research could do for medicine.

Shen et al. recommend further studies be conducted to monitor the methylation levels of other cells derived from hESC lines and determine if there are any correlations. Sadly however, it appears that both studies only demonstrate that the promise of stem cell research will not be realized in the near future.

* * *

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Josefina C. Fonacier: pioneer and implementor

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN 1999 I INTERVIEWED DR. JOSEFINA "Josie" Fonacier at length, for an article on Philippine participation in the International Math Olympiad for the international journal The Mathematical Intelligencer (Springer-Verlag, New York). For aside from coach Dr. Jose Marasigan, Josie was a pioneer in selecting our talented students for this competition. How? To choose the best of the best, Josie organized the first Philippine Math Olympiad (PMO) in 1984, and now the PMO is going strong.

The first PMO was conducted on a feasibility basis in two regions, the National Capital and the Southern Tagalog regions. Following this successful tryout, the PMO was expanded nationwide, and since 1986, it has been conducted every two years. The Department of Science and Technology has been a major sponsor, shelling out an average of more than half a million pesos for each event. Business has also stepped into the picture, with sponsors for trophies and cash awards. With the endorsement of the Department of Education, the PMO is now a regular event under the leadership of the Mathematical Society of the Philippines (MSP).

Aside from identifying and motivating mathematically gifted students, the PMO aims to provide a vehicle for the professional growth of teachers, and to stimulate the improvement of math education. Today, Josie affirms, "the mechanics are all in place."

Worked all her life

Josie graduated with a BS Education degree, major in math, cum laude, from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman in 1949. She has worked in UP all her life, particularly with the Institute of Science and Math Education Development (Ismed). Josie was chair of the Math Workgroup of Ismed, and served as assistant director for 10 years before becoming director. She was part of the team that developed the first generation of math textbooks of Ismed, which are currently used by various schools in the country. In 1986, she decided to retire, but this indefatigable educator soon returned after three years as consultant.

Unlike the stereotypical mathematician in the ivory tower, Josie is pragmatic. Known for her no-nonsense attitude, Josie gets things done. For a long time, Josie was either associate or managing editor of Matimyas Matematika, the official journal of MSP. Then in 2001, when both of us were active in the Philippine Council of Math Teacher Educators (Mathted), Josie stressed the need for another Pinoy journal, this time focused on math education rather than abstract math. I agreed to become the editor of Intersection, as the Mathted journal would become known, on one condition—that Josie serve as managing editor. She readily agreed.

Biggest regret

It was a pleasure to work with Josie. Recognizing the need for deadlines, Josie ensured that the publication of the journal run smoothly and regularly. I am proud to say that under our guidance, the journal—both regular and special issues—came out on time, in May and November of every year. Last year I handed the editorship to Dr. Milagros Ibe, but Josie remains managing editor.

Josie is a founding member, founding national board member and first president of Mathted from 1997 to 2001. She has taught mathematics mostly at the college and graduate school, and her biggest regret is "not having spent enough time teaching in the classroom." With her busy schedule, she never had the time to pursue a doctorate. "I am waiting for some institution to give me an honorary degree," she laughs.

Josie's wish will come true, in a way. This October, Mathted will confer on Josie not an honorary degree, but something equally prestigious—recognition for lifetime contributions in the field. Together with Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres; S.J., Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines founder Sr. Iluminada Coronel, f.m.m., and Dean of Miriam College Graduate School of Education Dr. Milagros Ibe, Josie will be honored for her invaluable work, both in front of and behind the scenes, toward the development of math education in the Philippines.

* * *

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Why some women don't breastfeed

By Rebecca B. Singson, MD, FPOGS
Contributor

Conclusion

LAST WEEK I STARTED ENUMERATING why some women do not breastfeed. Here are some more reasons:

• **Wrong feeding pattern.** Some women think babies should feed only every two or three hours and only for 10-20 minutes. Babies should be fed on demand because it may take up to 2-4 weeks to establish a good milk supply. Most babies will gain weight if they are fed on demand or at least every 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Waiting more than two hours may cause the breasts to become engorged and painful. This decreases milk production. Women who think they will gradually build up breastfeeding by supplementing with formula or glucose water are setting themselves up for a higher likelihood of failure to establish breastfeeding. Introducing alternatives to breast milk in the first six months will cause the baby to become full, and decrease its demand of breast milk, which in turn will decrease its supply.

• **"Did not produce enough milk."** So many women are so insecure and so unempowered to believe that if nature had allowed them to bear a child, nature would also equip them with the means to keep their baby alive. It is all based on supply and demand. The moment you start to mix with formula, the demand for breast milk decreases since the baby is fuller for a longer period of time. Logically, this is because the proteins of formula milk stay undigested for up to 60 minutes (allowing proteins to reach intestines and cause major allergies) while breast milk is digested within 15 minutes.

• **Unrelenting frustration.** Women who end up with a comedy of errors that can start with a poor latch on, then end up frustrated when she gets sore nipples or the baby rejects her. The problem is, the moment Mom gets stressed, she won't release the hormone prolactin which is released from her pituitary gland at the base of the brain, which is responsible for the milk let-down reflex.

• **Poor home support.** Some of the first people who may discourage you from breastfeeding may be your very own mother, aunt, or relative who grew up in a generation brainwashed by ads to believe that formula is superior to breast milk! Some overbearing moms may find it ridiculous why you should make life difficult when there is formula milk to free up your body and time. This may lead one to believe that since your family members didn't breastfeed, you won't be able to either, which is so untrue.

• **Illness and infection.** Sometimes a hospitalization for a serious illness, a fever or infection can prompt your pediatrician to shift you to formula feeding. Even during a fever or an infection, as long as it is not AIDS or active tuberculosis, one may continue to breastfeed. Research suggests strongly that any risk of transmission associated with breastmilk is negligible, compared to the high risk of exposure to maternal blood and body fluids at birth. However, cracked or bleeding nipples or lesions with serious exudates, could possibly expose the infant to infectious doses of hepa B.

• **Work interference.** Many women stop breastfeeding once they go back to work 6-8 weeks after delivery. Leaking breasts can be embarrassing during a corporate meeting. The stress of work itself can jeopardize release of prolactin essential to milk let-down reflex.

• **Simply don't want to.** Some women, however, whose pregnancy is under adverse circumstances, like after a rape, are not psychologically prepared to breastfeed, since they feel further violated.

a. Fear of pain—Those who imagine themselves being bitten on the nipples or have seen the suffering of some women with engorged nipples are afraid to undergo the experience themselves.

b. Uneasy with the thought—Women don't have the confidence that they have it within them to keep their baby alive through their natural faculty of breastfeeding.

c. Suits her lifestyle—Some women don't want to be tied down at home because of work or leisure reasons. Breastfeeding just simply cramps her style. The truth is, we can bring the baby everywhere and feed as needed. With a drape over your breast and the baby's head, one can continue to breastfeed without even being noticed. All the baby really needs after all, is to be fed and changed.

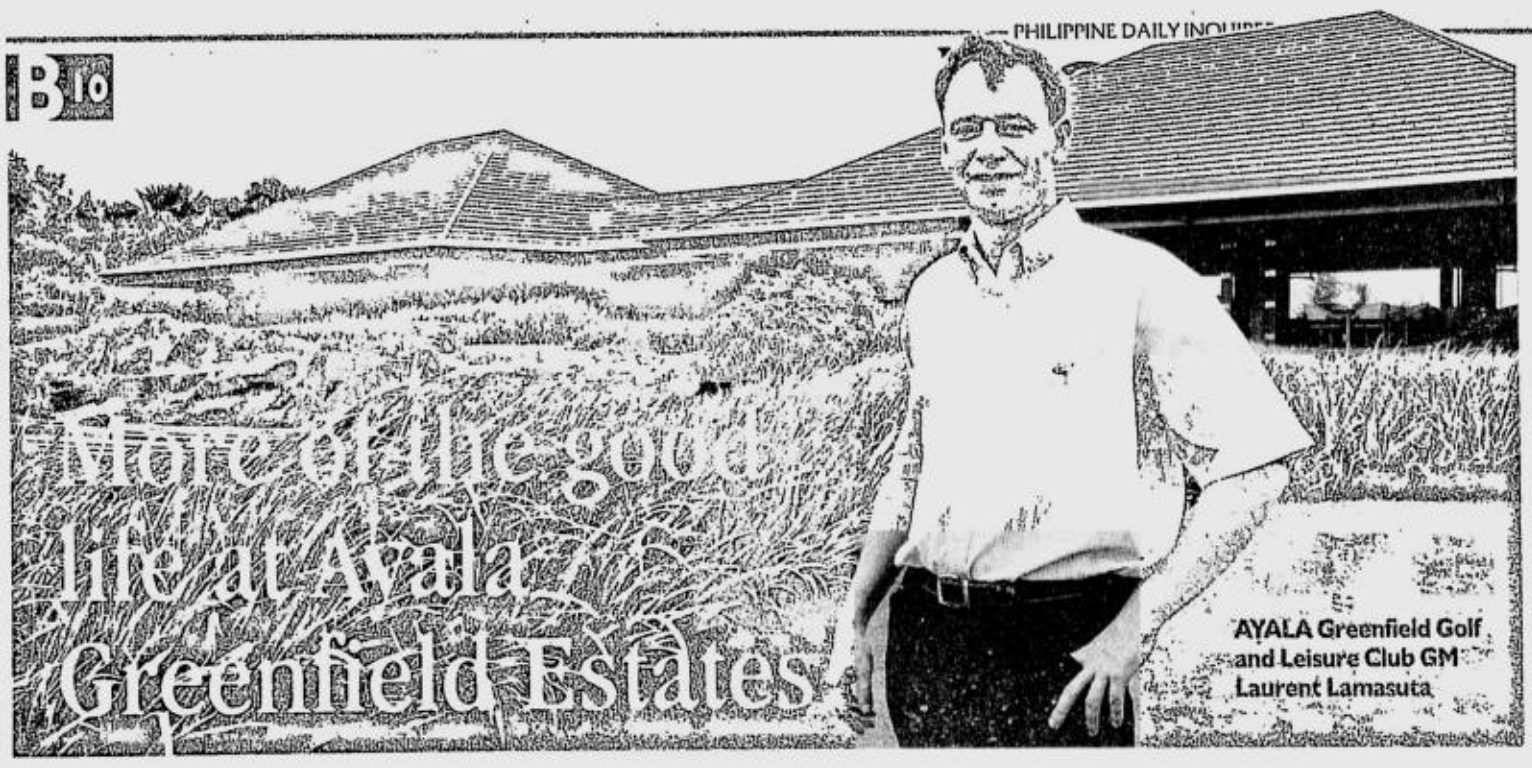
• **Our breastfeeding culture has disappeared.** We live in a society where we do not see women breastfeeding in public. So, if you haven't grown up seeing women around you breastfeeding successfully, if it's something that's hidden away, then it becomes even harder for you to succeed yourself. Many women feel embarrassment with public exposure.

What can be done?

• **Get a lactation counselor/therapist.** A breast massage with lactation counseling does wonders to make your milk flow within the hour. ReBirthSpa specializing in prenatal and lactation massage based at Asian Hospital may do the work for you and can be reached at 7719-206 or 0917-806-3339.

• **Inquire about donated breast milk.** If despite lactation counseling and best intentions, the milk is inadequate, evidenced by less than 6-8 wet diapers per day after the first week, or less than three stools in 24 hours or birth weight is not regained after the 10th day, you can ask your pediatrician or friends to patch you up with other breastfeeding moms willing to donate breast milk to you. It has been done, and you can make it happen if you so desire.

(Dr. Singson is a fellow of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Society. She holds clinic at the Makati Medical Center and the Asian Hospital and Medical Center. E-mail her at obmd@surfshop.net.ph.)



More of the good life at Ayala Greenfield Estates

AYALA Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club GM Laurent Lamasuta

GORGEOUS VISTAS AND TOPNOTCH AMENities are the things that residents enjoy at Ayala Greenfield Estates. With its spectacular location that offers amazing views of Mount Makiling, Tagaytay Ridge and Laguna de Bay, and world-class amenities that include the 18-hole all-weather championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Ayala Greenfield Estates provides residents with an unparalleled level of beauty and comfort.

And in keeping with Ayala Land Premier's dedication to customer satisfaction, Ayala Greenfield Estates offers additional services that will surely add more value to living in this scenic leisure community.

Services offered

"We have just started offering extended services that include external housekeeping and gardening," shares village administrator Kenny Cruz.

For a minimal fee, the village's property management staff can help take of simple chores like washing windows and floors or cutting the grass and maintaining the garden area. "So far, we've had several inquiries from residents who are very interested in availing these services," Cruz says.

Eventually, the village plans to offer other services like landscaping, car washing, catering and events organizing to help coordinate birthday parties and similar gatherings. "We also hope to provide a laundry service and even a technical butler who can assist residents in setting up equipment like computers or a home theater system," Cruz adds.

First time in subdivision

While offering extra services are common in residential buildings, this is the first time that such efforts are undertaken in a subdivision. "We have done extensive research to find out what our residents like and what services would answer their needs," Cruz relates. "Because Ayala Greenfield Estates would pioneer the concept of providing such services, we made sure that what we offer is tailor-made for our residents to ensure their comfort. The extra services will also enhance their appreciation of being part of this community."

VILLAGE administrator Kenny Cruz and customer service relations officer Janice Guy

The personalized services also extend to the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club.

Says GM Laurent Lamasuta of the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club: "We want our residents to feel comfortable and truly enjoy the value of living at Ayala Greenfield Estates. This is a place where they can get away to relax, and we hope to enhance that feeling by offering services that fit their lifestyle."

Care and attention

The care and attention that the club provides its members begins even before they set foot at course. Staff drivers in golf carts can pick up the members at the parking area and take them to the clubhouse and back. Should they desire, the golfers can even be taken directly to the course's Hole No. 1. The club also provides valet parking service.

The club staff is always on hand to ensure the members' comfort, serving refreshments after the golfers finish the first 9 holes, and distributing cold towels and water as they make their way back to the clubhouse after the 18th hole. While members can enjoy a round of golf with other members or with friends, the resident golf director and marshal can also join the party to share tips on improving their game.

The golfers can cap their game with a delicious lunch or snack at the Veranda, which offers an extensive a la carte menu. They can also look forward to new food promotions and special beverage concoctions every month.

Service standards

All these services are delivered by the friendly, courteous and well-trained staff of the Ayala Golf and Leisure Club, which also strictly implements high quality service standards.

"These service standards should be sustainable and consistent," relates Lamasuta, "because our goal is not just to provide but even exceed our members' expectations in terms of the level of service." Lamasuta adds, "We are very receptive to our members' needs and wishes. If we can implement and sustain these requests, we provide them."

Other service enhancements are also in the works. "Ayala Greenfield Estates is first and foremost a residential community, and we see the club as an extension of every resident's backyard," relates Lamasuta, "which is why we plan to enhance our services to make their visit here hassle-free." The club plans to implement a "come and play" service wherein members can choose to leave their golf set at the club, come directly to tee off No. 1 and start enjoying the game without registering.

Recreation, security

Residents will also be able to enjoy other recreational activities at the Ayala Golf and Leisure Club, with a swimming pool, badminton courts and a spa soon to be developed. "These amenities will allow us to provide a fully loaded club for the enjoyment of residents and club members," Lamasuta says.

Ayala Greenfield Estates also enforces security controls to provide for their safety and peace of mind.

The comfort and security that the village administration serves to further enhance the quality of living at Ayala Greenfield Estates. Residents will not only delight in nature's beauty and indulge in exciting leisure activities in the clubhouse and the golf and leisure club, but also enjoy personalized services that will surely bring more of the good life in this scenic haven.

For inquiries about Ayala Greenfield, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalagreenfield-estates.com or email ask@ayalaland-premier.com.

Resort-type communities attract new wave of buyers

WHAT DOES ONE LOOK FOR A home besides affordability?

Families put a premium on space. For them, spacious living is the key to maintaining a sound and convenient lifestyle.

For start-up couples, privacy is what they require first and foremost in their dream nest.

To seal a sale for young professionals, the place they contemplate to call home should be only minutes away from the workplace and their favorite leisure spots.

With developers mushrooming left and right bombarding the market with the best-buy options, home hunters should think twice before letting go of their hard-earned money. Not a few stories have been told and retold of how couples had saved what could be set aside all their lives only to lose it overnight to hasty decisions and bad investments made.

POCKET gardens and fun facilities for kids are standard features in any DMCI community such as those found at Mayfield Park.

Focused on needs

DMCI Homes, one of the country's leading developers, is making it both its mission and vision to build communities focused on the needs and priorities of today's house buyers. For years now, it has been pursuing in-city developments exuding the out-of-town look and brimming with the comfort and convenience one can only find in topnotch resorts.

The company that is the real estate arm of construction titan DM Consunji, Inc. makes sure its buyers will be pleased with the house it is selling and with what lies behind its doors.

For families who love the great outdoors, any DMCI Homes communities will satisfy what their hearts desire. Any day lived in these developments growing perfectly manicured gardens and lawns will be a perfect day for picnics. And for residents escaping the hustle and bustle of the city traffic, any of the company's communities can offer quiet solitude.

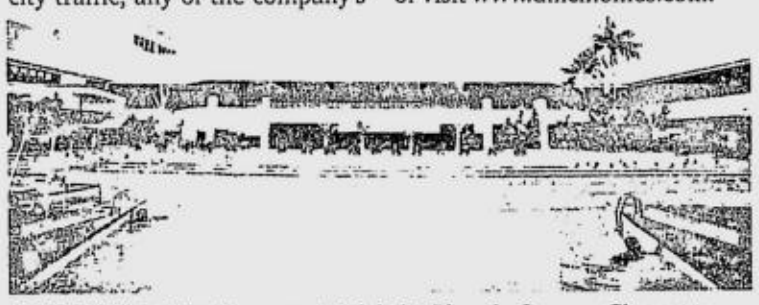
Clubhouse

Or if fun and relaxation is what they are after at the end of another harried and hurried day, they can find it in the clubhouse, one of the main features and fixtures of each of these developments.

This magnificently designed facility houses such amenities as an audiovisual room, function rooms, a billiard hall, lounge area, view deck, playing courts and, for the benefit of those who cannot totally divorce themselves from work even if they're home, Wi-Fi connectivity.

These resort-type communities have been attracting a new wave of Filipino buyers here and abroad. They prefer a quick escape from the chaos and tension of city living, not two or three hours but only a few minutes from Metro Manila's prime locations and the business districts of Makati and Ortigas.

For further information, interested parties may call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.



RESIDENTS of The Manors at Celebrity Place in Quezon City get to enjoy an olympic-size pool at Celebrity Sports as one of their privileges.

Brittany Bay masterplanned for interconnectivity

SOON TO BE THE BIGGEST URBAN development project of maverick property developer Brittany Corp., Brittany Bay is a world-class, high-end, multidimensional urban development off the Sucat Exit, right along the South Luzon Expressway. Set to be completed in 10 years with over 60 hectares of prime property that offers an unobstructed, breathtaking view of the Laguna de Bay and the Sierra Madre Mountains, the project will offer a combination of residential, commercial, business and institutional enclaves.

The ambitious masterplan of Brittany Bay is tied with the classic neo-Victorian theme of the San Francisco Bay Area. The land's unmistakable semblance in both topography and urban culture lends it easy for Brittany Corp. to choose the SFO Bay Area as the thematic inspiration for Brittany Bay.

Ongoing developments

Setting the enclave apart from other urban developments by already being home to a proud and exclusive community of neighborhoods established to heed the call of urban renewal.

THE UNIQUE courtyard-within-a-courtyard concept and encompassing Italian theme of the Courtyards of Portofino complements the affluent life experiences of its residents.

The communities include: La Posada, single-detached homes with picturesque bay windows and porches; Victorianne, townhomes reminiscent of San Francisco's Postcard Row; Presidio, a complex of 6-8 low-rise condos with intertwined commercial establishments; and the enclave of mid-rise condominiums which includes the Viera Tower.

Complementing the existing communities is a lifestyle and entertainment complex initially spanning 8 hectares.

THE VICTORIANNE Quadrilles at Brittany Bay draws Inspiration from San Francisco's neo-Victorian architecture.

Interconnectivity

Brittany Bay's proximity to the airport and strategic location midway between the Makati Central and Ortigas Business Districts makes it the next, most viable urban development—even before Alabang and Sta. Rosa.

Brittany Bay boasts of 4 major access points which integrate the community with the rest of the metropolis.

The current access is via the East Service Road exiting Sucat interchange from the South Luzon Expressway leading to the first lifestyle and entertainment center. Secondary access will be a coming from the East Service Road about 1 km away from the Bicutan Exit. This second route is a closer access to the second lifestyle and entertainment center.

Third is the South Railway connecting the Greater Manila Area all the way to Bicol in the South and Clark, Pampanga in the north. This city will have its own transport park to service the commuters and the workforce within and outside of Brittany Bay.

Fourth is the ongoing C6 (Circumferential Road 6) link that will make travel time from Brittany Bay to the Global City and the Makati and Ortigas business districts an easy drive.

Interactive pedestrian links such as shaded bridges and underpass have been planned to create a pedestrian-friendly environment. These interactive pedestrian links meander along major and pocket parks and activity areas that sprawl around the development.

Brittany Corp. has long been reinventing the southern landscape for upscale developments with the 300 hectare Portofino on the Las Piñas-Laguna-Cavite-Muntinlupa Link Road, the American South inspired Georgia Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and the 70 hectare Swiss-inspired Crosswinds in Tagaytay. For private previews of Brittany Bay, call 850-2868 or 850-3084 or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

Avida offers versatile loft units

CONTRARY TO POPULAR OPINION, a loft space is not only ideal as a bedroom. According to Asuncion-Berenguer Inc. (ABI), the firm responsible for the design of the current model units of Avida Towers New Manila, this elevated area overlooking a main floor is also ideal as a home-office space for a telecommuting professional, an atelier for a creative individual or simply a great space to throw private parties.

Along with its standard offering of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units in its in-city condominium developments, Avida Land is reintroducing the versatile loft unit in its five-tower New Manila project. The move is a means to redefine condominium living for those Metro Manilans who continue to clamor for features more closely associated with single-detached dwellings. A loft unit offers the perception of more space but with all other comforts offered by condominium living including the more affordable price tag of the latter.

The firm tapped ABI, known for its contemporary palettes, to give prospective buyers a good idea of how loft spaces can be transformed into attractive and homey spaces for the bachelor as well as a young family.

Contemporary look

For the one-bedroom loft unit at the Avida New Manila showroom, a contemporary look most likely to be preferred by the upwardly mobile professional focused on brick walls, a steel table with metallic finish, checkered-plated flooring and warm colors, and other industrial elements. To show the versatility of the unit, a mountain bike and a waveboard were incorporated into the interiors.

A second model unit with two bedrooms was envisioned for a family and is fitted with furniture pieces that each have multiple functions. A glass center table doubles as dining space, while the ottomans also serve as seats for the diners. Mirrors are also used extensively to create the illusion of space. In this unit, the loft is used as a master's bedroom.

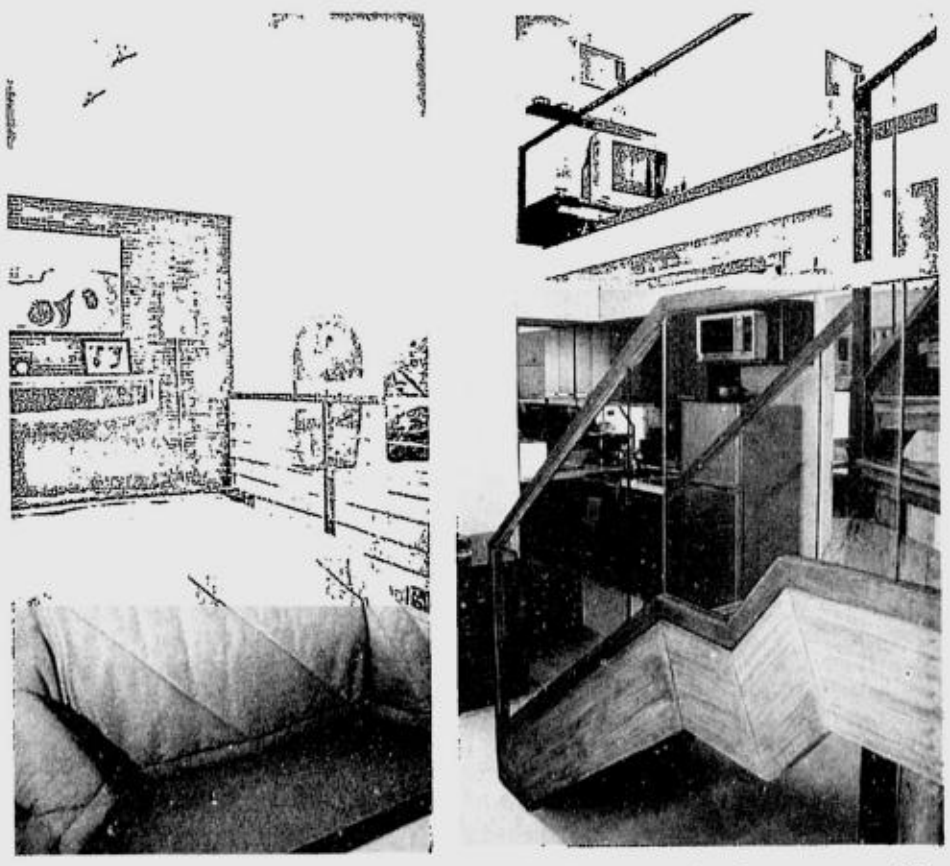
Whatever the unit owner chooses to do with the loft, ABI suggests that the space be left open rather than walled off. Another option is to use transparent instead of solid railing. The idea is to keep the area open and to maintain the unit's overall airy feeling. To further sustain one's sense of spaciousness, windows can be covered with sheer—rather than heavy—curtain materials. This move also lets the light in freely.

Sense of spaciousness

Avida officials believes that the versatility of lofts has made it a standard feature of most quality developments. The loft unit is definitely here to stay.

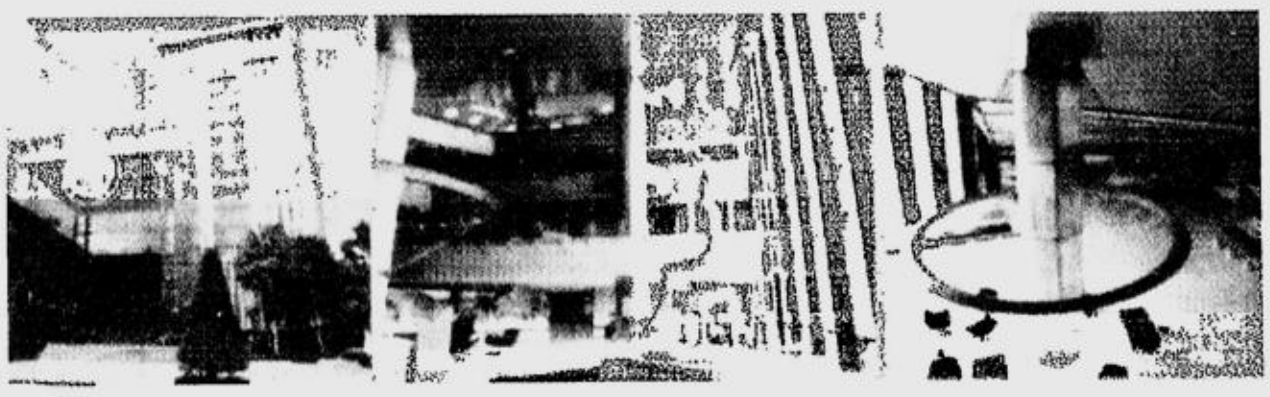
Aside from its New Manila developments, Avida Land will also offer loft units in its two other condominium projects—Avida Towers Sucat in Parañaque and Avida Towers San Lazaro in Manila. Avida's condo units range in price from P1 million to P3.2 million.

For more information about Avida Land, visit its website at www.avida-land.com.



AN AVIDA loft unit allows the homeowner to enjoy the perception of more space with all other comforts offered by condominium living including a central in-city location.

Green buildings and terrorism



THAILAND'S Krung Thai Bank Head Office is this year's first runner-up in the Asean Energy Awards retrofitted building category. It features an Energy Management System (EMS) to monitor, manage and control power distribution and usage in the entire building complex to save energy and ensure safety.

AS AMERICA COMMEMORATES THE 5TH YEAR of the September 11 attacks, many countries are now evaluating what should be done in the face of an ever-increasing threat of terrorism.

Today, many buildings, particularly embassies and other government edifices are physically isolated by wide setbacks from streets and barricaded with concrete barriers. One is reminded of the medieval castles in Europe with their thick walls surrounded by moats. Protecting buildings with physical barriers is not always practical and in many cases, not possible. What is more effective is using the building's design, including its operation and management, as a first line of defense against terrorist attacks.

Energy management system

One of the four sites attacked by the terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001 was the Pentagon. One hundred eighty-nine people died in the crash and millions of dollars in damages were incurred. Many more people could have been killed with bigger damage if not for the centralized energy management system (EMS) that was installed earlier to automate the building's heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) system and to make it easier to monitor, manage and to reduce energy bills.

With the EMS command center in place, the building's condition is monitored in real time through laptop connections in the building's 500-plus mechanical rooms.

When the jetliner crashed into the building, power was cut off including the command center. The chief engineer, armed with a laptop, a two-way radio and the help of a few men tapped into the information system and sent out manual commands that closed dampers and turned off fans to contain smoke and deprive the fire of oxygen. In the end, a system designed to save energy ultimately saved many lives and minimized damage.

A large commercial or mixed-use complex with an energy management system can monitor, manage and control a similar disaster to prevent or minimize damage to life and property.

Green and safe

Green buildings and safe buildings have a lot of things in common. Many of the green principles and concepts merge seamlessly with those for safe buildings.

Green architecture involves the design of buildings that conform to the natural features of their site, is energy-efficient, maximizes the use of daylight, minimizes environmental impact, improves indoor air quality including the health and comfort of building occupants.

First thing to do

Whether it's an office building, a shopping mall, a hotel or a school building, safe buildings must be designed starting with a comprehensive analysis of the possible risks and threats that may occur within the premises.

Once the evaluation is done, safety measures are then proposed based on the particular nature of each type of building.

Safety measures

There are several ways to provide safety measures in a building.

The first is through the operation and management of the building. This may involve posting more security personnel or guards in critical areas like entrances and exits.

Another way is through high technology features like surveillance cameras, alarm systems and light and motion sensors. The use of doors, locks, handrails or guide rails can physically direct the path and restrict people's mobility and access to buildings.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

What is more effective is using the building's design, including its operation and mgt, as a first line of defense against terrorist attacks

Improved structural system

High-rise building design is now undergoing extensive changes, as a direct result of the 9-11 attacks.

The safe buildings constructed today are designed to avoid collapsing like pancakes when disaster strikes. This means designing stronger columns to support collapsed floors.

Alternative source of energy

For safe buildings it is vitally important to have an alternative source of energy instead of relying solely on the local utility company.

With solar power or fuel cell as a backup source of power providing continuous lighting and ventilation, people will have more time to evacuate the premises during emergencies. To protect the system from possible attacks, these systems must be located away from exposed and vulnerable sites such as garages and warehouses.

Developers should give special attention to the protection of the power system and the wiring to the equipment.

Protection vs biological attacks

Green buildings are concerned with maintaining high indoor air quality. For safe buildings, this very same feature is crucial for saving lives when a chemical or biological attack occurs.

Many buildings now are equipped with Hepa filters. Hepa means high efficiency particulate air. It is a type of filter that removes at least 99.97 percent of dust, pollen, mold, bacteria and any airborne particles with a size of 0.3 micrometers at 85 liters per minute.

Investigation of building systems

Once the building systems are in place, a thorough evaluation should be done to verify if the system is working properly to save energy and improve the indoor air quality. With this evaluation, weaknesses in the system can be spotted and remedied.

One important result of this process is to determine whether the building provides protection from certain threats.

Other innovations

High-speed elevators for safe buildings are now specially reinforced and are used for transporting firemen and other emergency personnel.

Parking garages for the public, whenever possible, are now placed in separate structures and not in the basement of buildings to avoid a repetition of previous terrorist attacks in many countries. Blast-resistant glazing systems are now also widely used.

As the threat of terrorism escalates, building occupants and tenants are demanding safer and more comfortable places to work and live. As green architecture and technology are applied to address these needs, worker productivity is also enhanced.

Owners and developers must now seriously consider how green design and technology can be applied in their projects, not only to make buildings greener but also safer.

* * *

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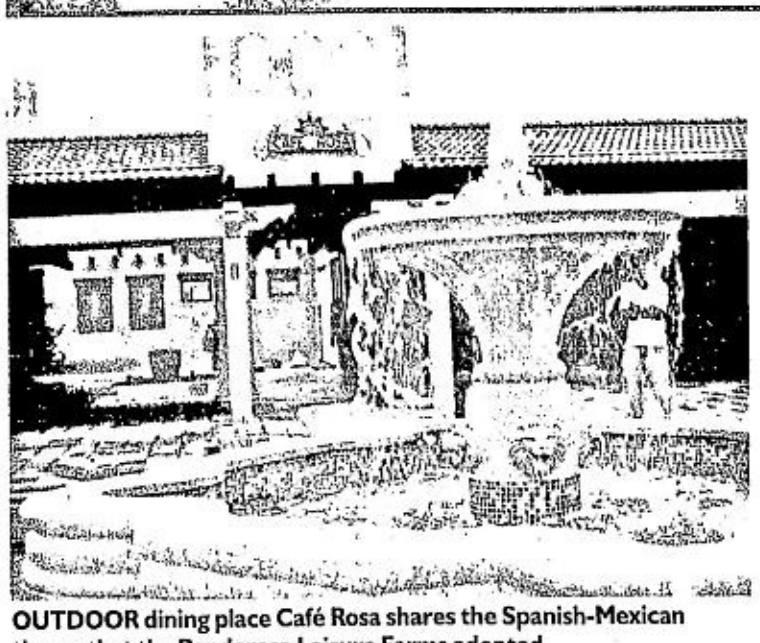


OUTDOOR dining place Café Rosa shares the Spanish-Mexican theme that the Ponderosa Leisure Farms adopted.

More amenities at Cavite's exclusive leisure farm estate

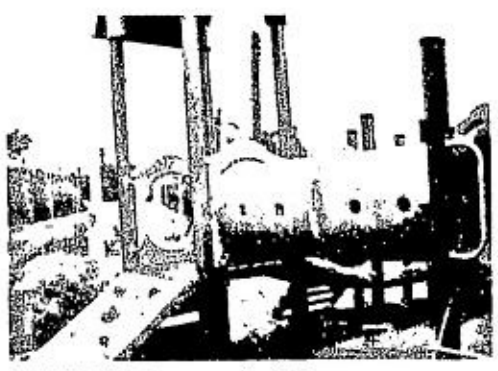
By Charles E. Buban

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST EXclusive garden village, the 70-hectare Ponderosa Leisure Farms in Silang, Cavite, is almost ready.

Developer Landco Pacific Corp. recently announced the completion of several amenities for the use of its residential lot owners and their guests.

"The four new amenities are part of Landco Pacific's commitment to its home buyers to provide them with a wholesome community they can be proud of," said Ponderosa Leisure Farm's strategic business unit head Jose Antonio Xeres-Burgos.

PLAZA Maravilla will be the commercial village plaza.



THE KID'S playground will have entertainment and play facilities for toddlers.

The five new additions are Tienda de Flores village store, the outdoor diner Café Rosa and adjoining Jardin de Ponderosa event area, Plaza Maravilla and the Kid's Playground. Except for the kid's playground, these facilities are open to the public.

Sell homegrown crops

Only fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers grown organically and employed with modern farm technologies can be bought at Tienda de Flores. Moreover, Ponderosa residents may be able to sell their homegrown crops here at the village store, which is operated by Leisure Farms Tagaytay Inc., the same operator that manages the village store in the other Landco-owned Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas.

"Incidentally, the flowers grown right at the nursery of Landco Pacific's joint-venture partner Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, will also be sold at the village store," Xeres-Burgos added.

Plaza Maravilla is planned to be the commercial village plaza. It will feature a central area to connect a village center, the clubhouse, restaurant and a planned chapel. Plaza Maravilla will be bound by a trellised walkway on all sides, which may be used for spillover traffic generated by any of the said establishments.

Event area Jardin de Ponderosa, on the other hand, features a built-in stage and fountain in the middle that can be an ideal place for holding important family occasions like baptism, weddings or even corporate events.

Adjoining this event area is Café Rosa, an outdoor dining place that shares the Spanish-Mexican theme that the whole development adopted.

Xeres-Burgos explained that Café Rosa could also accommodate the additional guests that the adjoining Jardin de Ponderosa entertain [Jardin de Ponderosa could seat 300 to 500 (cocktail-style) guests].

Exclusive to lot owners

The Kid's Playground, which is exclusive to the children of lot owners, features vine trellises at the perimeter, which blends well to the area's natural surroundings.

It will have entertainment and play facilities for toddlers (so their parents could go shopping or go somewhere else) while guardians are provided with a waiting area where they can monitor their children.

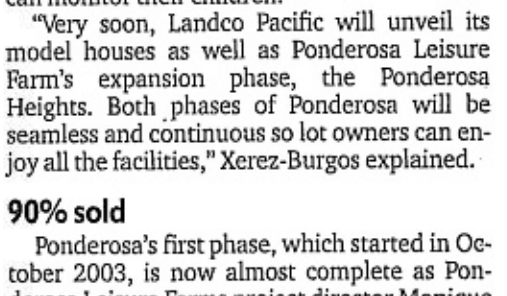
"Very soon, Landco Pacific will unveil its model houses as well as Ponderosa Leisure Farm's expansion phase, the Ponderosa Heights. Both phases of Ponderosa will be seamless and continuous so lot owners can enjoy all the facilities," Xerez-Burgos explained.

90% sold

Ponderosa's first phase, which started in October 2003, is now almost complete as Ponderosa Leisure Farms project director Monique Orendain informed that 90 percent of the phase's available 407 lots (with an average lot size of 1,000 sq m), are already sold.

"Ponderosa's major amenities—the Plaza Bougainvillea entrance, Plaza Maria Luisa fountain and rotunda, Casa Ponderosa model unit and the three themed gardens (El Refugio, El Sanctuario and Campo Verde)—are ready for our lot owner's enjoyment," said Orendain.

Indeed, the uniqueness of Ponderosa Leisure Farms will certainly attract home buyers yearning for a different concept in community development. With superb location that offers cool mountain weather and climate, as well as perfect terrain, Orendain believes the urban dwellers now have an ideal place where they could spend some time away from the hustle of city life.



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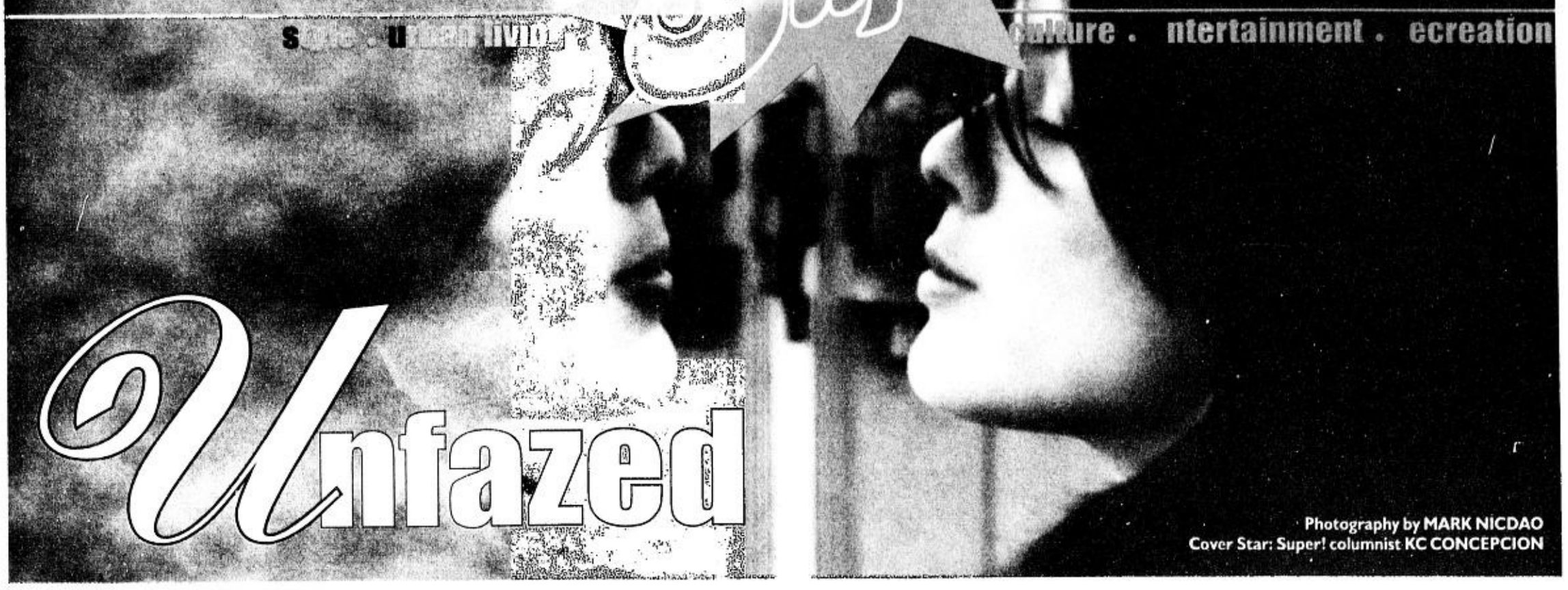

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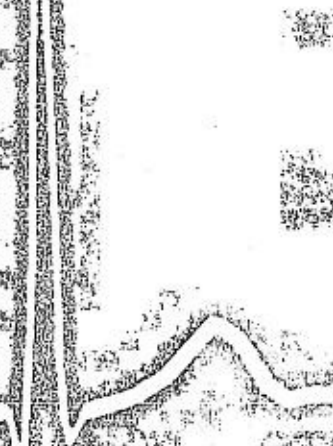

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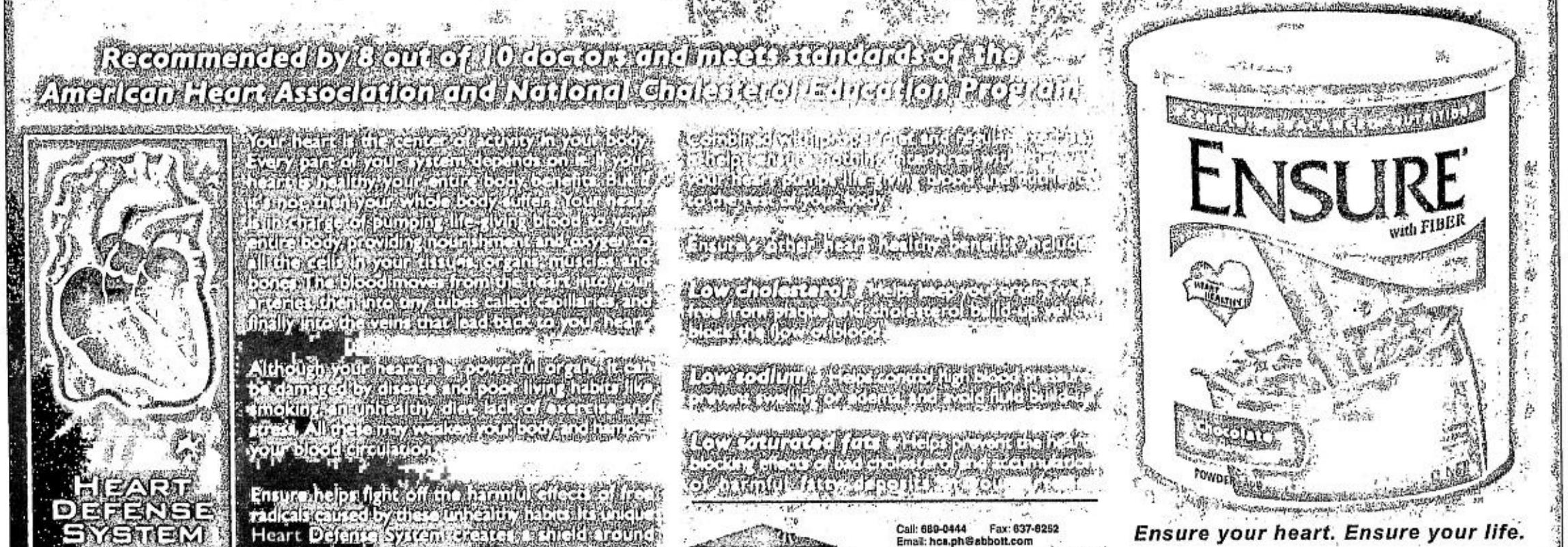

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The art of the ma

By Tals Díaz and Gino de la Paz
Photos by Otto, Willy Saw, Rodel Rotoni and Rudy Esperas

Sunday became the new Saturday during the Superl Artists' Fair

IT WAS NOT YOUR USUAL grab-your-drink-and-stand-around, photo-op event.

In fact, it was hardly like that at all. First, it happened on a Sunday. Next, the special spectacle involved artists, musicians, neo-bohemians, poets, performers, and pretty much everyone who believes in free-flowing positive energy and youthful creativity. Last, all the proceeds went straight to charity. The most fun you can have while recovering from the night before (or not), it was the Superl Artists' Fair, part three of Superl's 3rd anniversary as our generation's pop culture compass. Ah, fun.

Showing there are no boundaries between art and lifestyle (or rather, there shouldn't be), the country's creative class displayed their original wares and even wore their causes on their shirtsleeves. Outside, the way awesome peeps at Spin City DJ Academy cranked out the jams as graphic design duo Collision Theory scrawled the finishing touches on their one-off *balikbayan* box installation.

Blank canvases were also set up along the foyer, complete with cans of spray paint and paintbrushes, inviting everyone to channel their inner vandalist...er, graffiti artist to spray away their visions, messages, and, fine, their names and telephone numbers, for all to see.

Inside, DJ Mulan and Caliph8 took turns with the tunes, acting like human iPods with dreads and facial fuzz, respectively. There were definitely no rules or conventions, except to have fun and give in to spontaneity. As the DJs spun late in the afternoon, some of the All-Stars even kicked off an instant breakdance-off, while the Planet Zips performers splashed on color with their fluid, take-it-anywhere performance. In a not-so-quiet corner of the tent, some kind-hearted shoppers had their hair trimmed for free by Reyes Haircutters, who then donated the locks to groups working to contain the Guimaras oil spill. How's that for a blow out?

Poets from the Bitaw (or Being Inspired Through Active Wonder) Collective then took the mic to display their verbal calisthenics for a moment of spoken word play. Even Borgy Manotoc escaped the TV (and cell phone) cameras for a bit to open up his bar for the day which we called "BAR-GY Manotoc." For the first time ever, hip-hoppers hobnobbed with rakistas, environmentalists chitchatted with fashion folk, and artistas mingled with mall-going families. Even better news? They're all available for your next children's party! Hmmm.

Mega-mastermind and Superl columnist KG Concepcion, who steered the Artists' Fair for the second year in a row, relayed its spirit and purpose: to foster the scene's creative spirit and to champion those who are not usually given a second glance. Thanks to her—and ringleader Ronald Pasion's cranberry-colored hooch—the whole thing will go down in history as the Sunday Superl pitched a bigass tent in the heart of Rockwell. Wink.

Of course, the circus wouldn't have been complete without saluting the Superl People's Choice Awardees, those who rock our world (and then some) according to you. For rocking the world of performance art with their colorful fiery, and pretzel-like dances, Planet Zips received a special trophy that they subsequently worshipped. Meat-free models Raya Mananquil and Corey Mills accepted an award for their work with MYoga, customized yoga and nutrition classes brought to you when you want it.

Emman dela Cruz has rocked the world of indie film with "Sarong Banggi"

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Lean and Heart-Healthy Cuisine

Veteran culinary chef Willie Domingo has a unique professional mission: to help spread the word about the benefits of healthful cooking, with a special emphasis on taste and presentation, in a most unlikely place—the hospital environment.

As the resident Executive Chef at St. Luke's Medical Center's Food and Nutrition Department, Chef Willie hopes to raise the quality of patient care at St. Luke's by changing people's perception about hospital food.

The gourmet chief has come up with a wide selection of healthy food recipes catering to the up-market clients of St. Luke's executive lounge. Heart-healthy pizza, pasta and salad, for instance, can now be ordered from a special menu tailored to individual tastes and dietary specifications. These dishes are exceptional not only for their palate-pleasing qualities, but also for the stamp of healthy nutrition from the hospital's dieticians and nutritionists.

Chef Willie's line of meals are good for the heart and body. Here are some of his secrets in preparing for a healthy diet:

• **Use the freshest ingredients.** Fresh herbs and spices, extra-virgin olive oil and fresh mozzarella are not only healthy but also very flavorful. For carbohydrates, the use of fresh al dente pasta, healthy polenta or corn grits and risotto Arborio is recommended.

• **Choose green, leafy vegetables.** *Bok choy* (Chinese cabbage), *saluyot*, *malunggay* and *ampalaya* are rich in health-giving vitamins and minerals. Low in fat and rich in antioxidants, these plant-based foods keep the body strong and healthy.

• **Exercise portion control.** The size of the food serving is an integral part of a healthy diet. For instance, only 80 grams to 100 grams of lean meat should be served per meal. If you overdo it, eat fish the following day to compensate.

• **Go organic.** The small and round eggplant found in authentic *pinakbet*, a staple vegetable dish in the diet of the *Ilocanos*, is one of the reasons for their health and longevity. This vegetable has none of the harmful chemicals that pollute the human body.

• **Use healthy supplements as food substitutes.** For healthy food ideas, Chef Willie uses nutrient-complete **Ensure** in his recipes. While Ensure is known as a supplement, Chef Willie has weaved his magic to make it a type of food that is acceptable in culinary circles. Some of his concoctions include delicious and guilt-free salad dressings featuring a mixture of Ensure, olive oil and fresh cottage cheese. He has also prepared other sauces and desserts.

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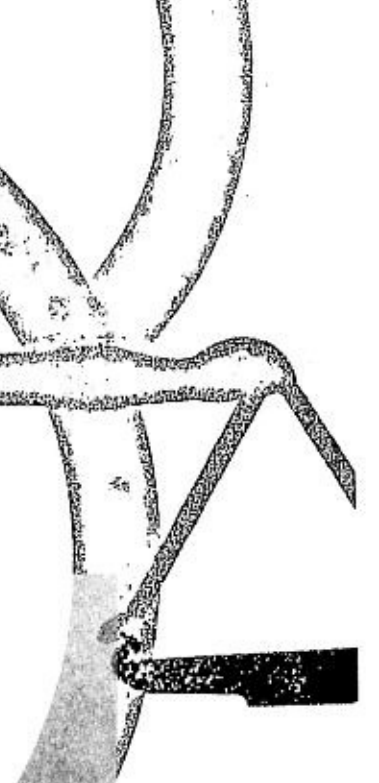

Chef Willie Domingo
Executive Chef,
St. Luke's Medical Center

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At the ____ is Super Awards, y'all rocked the vote!

By Pepe Diokno

ABOUT A MONTH AGO, WE TOLD you that this year, I AM SUPER! Awards will be given not just to our choices, but to your choices as well. We gave you an email address and a number to send nominations to and braced ourselves for a wave of tsunami proportions. Or not. The truth is, we were floored by the amount of nominations we received.

While we did get one or two nominations for Alyssa Alano (of the "Keys Me" fame), and Mike Defensor (for rocking the universe by being the only cabinet secretary in the world with braces), we got a good number of serious nominations. So, before anything, thank you for making our job of tallying nominations an easy one. Easy, except for the sleepless nights and the occasional nightmare.

INQUIRER research says that the I AM SUPER! Awards have been around for three years. Each year, Super gives recognition to people who have changed, influenced, and made an impact in the fields of style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment, and recreation. I AM SUPER! awardees are Super because of their passion, and for their contribution to society.

The I AM SUPER! People's Choice Awardees have all of the above—but they also deserve their awards because of their impact on the public. You, the Super public, the best public in the world (I'm sucking up to you), did choose them, after all.

Here are your I AM SUPER! awardees, mates! Look to them for inspiration (and money, maybe). Like them, pursue your passions, and contribute to society in ways you know best.

IZA CALZADO is Super in the entertainment world

RUSTOM PADILLA makes the homosexual cause a Super-issue

Emman de la Cruz

Less than a year ago, Emman de la Cruz saw a need in the local indie cinema scene—filmmakers almost kill themselves making their films, but they die when it comes to distribution.

The solution, Emman thought, is to get indie filmmakers united. Individual filmmakers, he says, are helpless against the big studios, but united, indie filmmakers stand a chance. Emman was able to pull together the most talented and influential people in the indie film scene to form the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines (IFCP). The IFCP will serve filmmakers by handling distribution, extending loans, pushing for legislation, and of course, by showing quality films at their own commercial theatre at Robinsons Galleria.

Iza Calzado

In an industry full of wannabes, show-offs, and plastic people, Iza is modest, sincere, and real. When we told Iza that you Supers had chosen her to be as an I AM SUPER! awardee, she was beside herself. She screamed when she found out that it's because she's inspired so many of you.

Iza Calzado is a proud to be a part of a small, but strong, number of people who believe that our film industry will reach better heights., For this to happen though, she thinks that those in the industry need to be more supportive of each other—"Enough with the network war," she says. Iza continues, "We should stop looking at what's wrong with the industry, and work on strengths."

Rustom Padilla

The world isn't as open as we think. While people in our country, to some extent, accept homosexuality, this doesn't mean there's equality among us. Until Rustom Padilla came out on Pinoy Big Brother, homos on TV were all two-dimensional caricatures. Rustom put the gay and lesbian cause on top of people's minds—not as a joke or a Dolphy skit, but as a serious human issue.

Planet Zips

Zipping is an artful dance that is based on the Maori dance form called "poi..." Planet Zips popularized this art form locally by bringing in a colorful version of the poi, an aerodynamic toy which they called Zips. "Zippers" practice and teach zipping, usually at the beach or open parks. They never fail to attract a crowd with their visual spectacle of color and light.

"Free Flow Go" is the motto of this group of neo-bohemians, who believe that Zipping is about fostering self-expression, individual creativity, and simply "good vibes."

Christian Bautista

The most number of nominations went to Christian Bautista. People from all over, even outside the country, emailed and texted his name. Christian's music is universal, and people of different ages and nationalities listen to his music. His Super edge, though, is that when his music is played abroad, it brings with it Filipino flavor. Christian has become an ambassador for us.

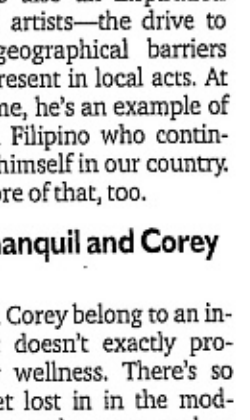
Christian's also an inspiration for all local artists—the drive to transcend geographical barriers should be present in local acts. At the same time, he's an example of a successful Filipino who continues to base himself in our country. We need more of that, too.

Raya Mananquil and Corey Wills

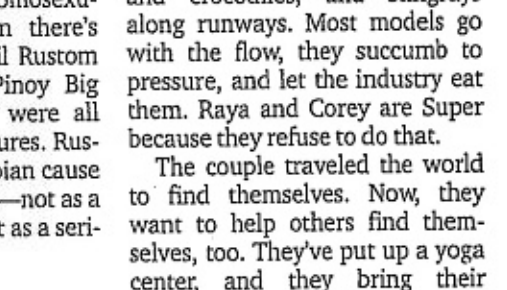
Raya and Corey belong to an industry that doesn't exactly promote inner wellness. There's so much to get lost in in the modelling industry; there are snakes, and crocodiles, and stingrays along runways. Most models go with the flow, they succumb to pressure, and let the industry eat them. Raya and Corey are Super because they refuse to do that.

The couple traveled the world to find themselves. Now, they want to help others find themselves, too. They've put up a yoga center, and they bring their healthy lifestyle everywhere with them. Here's to finding your Super inner self!

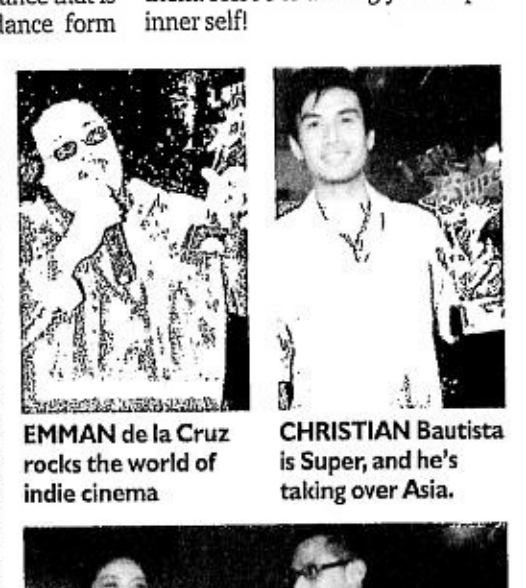
EMMAN de la Cruz rocks the world of indie cinema



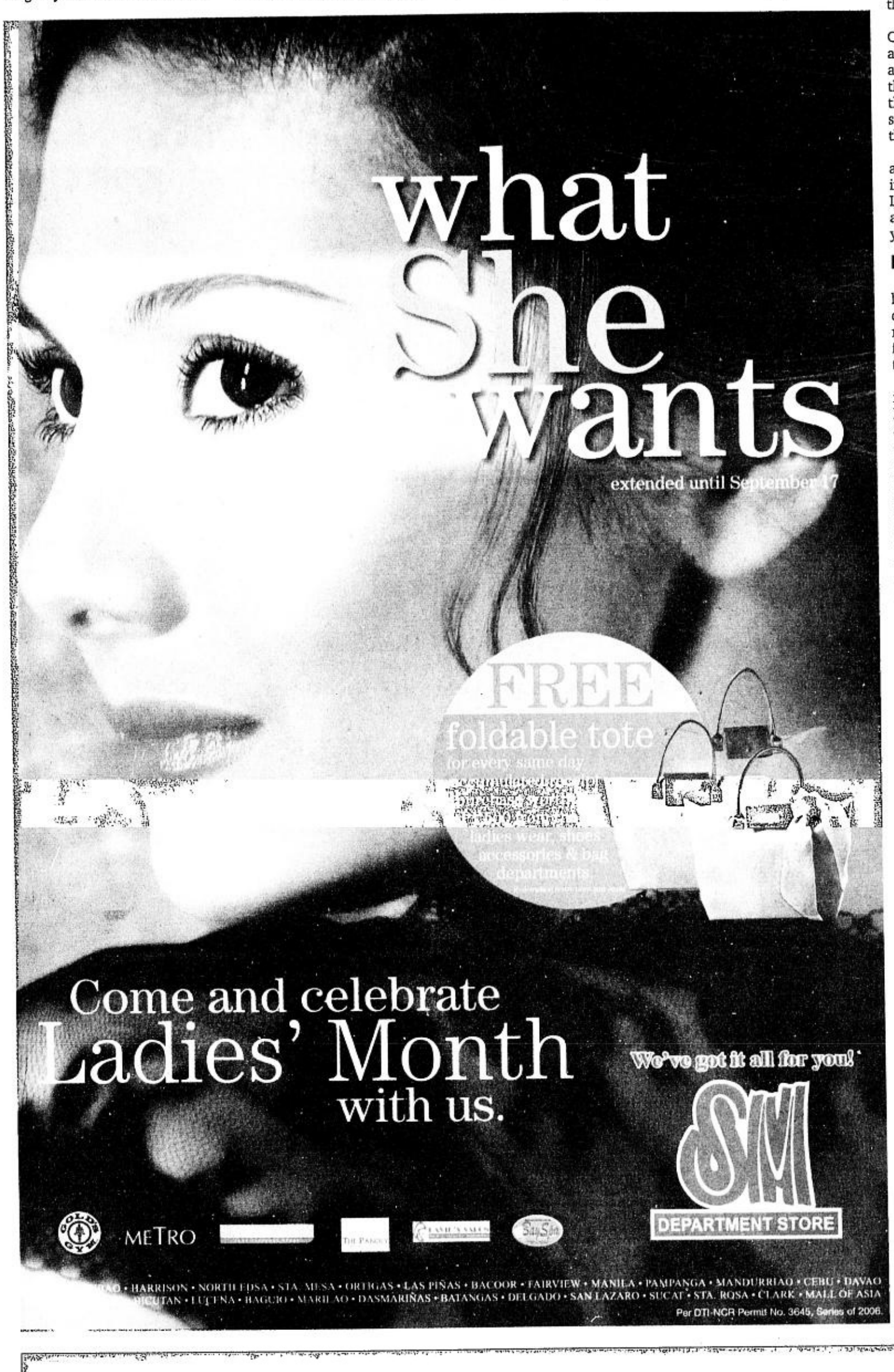
CHRISTIAN Bautista is Super, and he's taking over Asia.

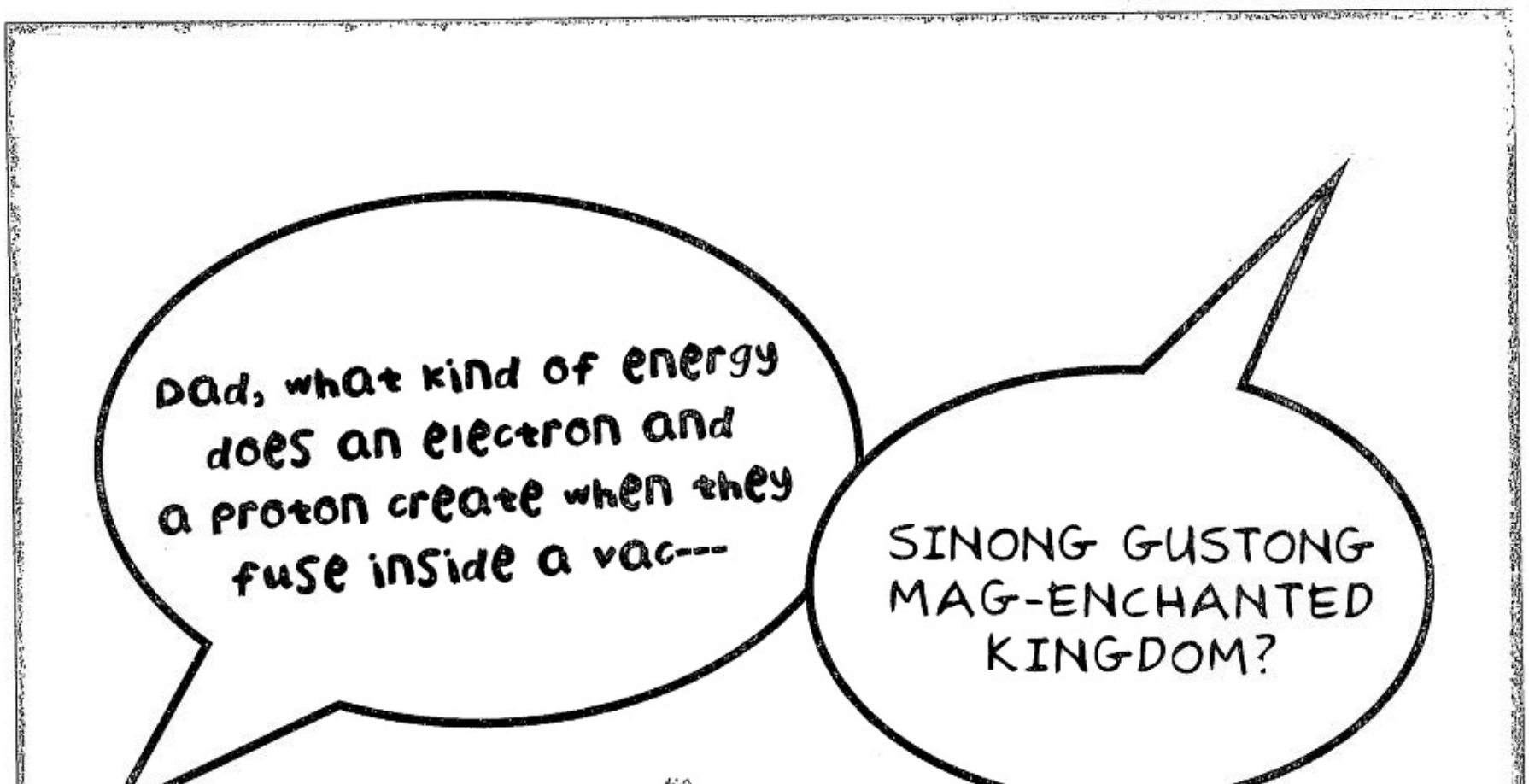


RAYA Mananquil and Corey Wills rock the world of not rocking the world. Zen.



PLANET Zips is for freedom!





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Livin' La Vida Rocco

TASTY! Star chef Rocco Dispirito

By Tals Diaz

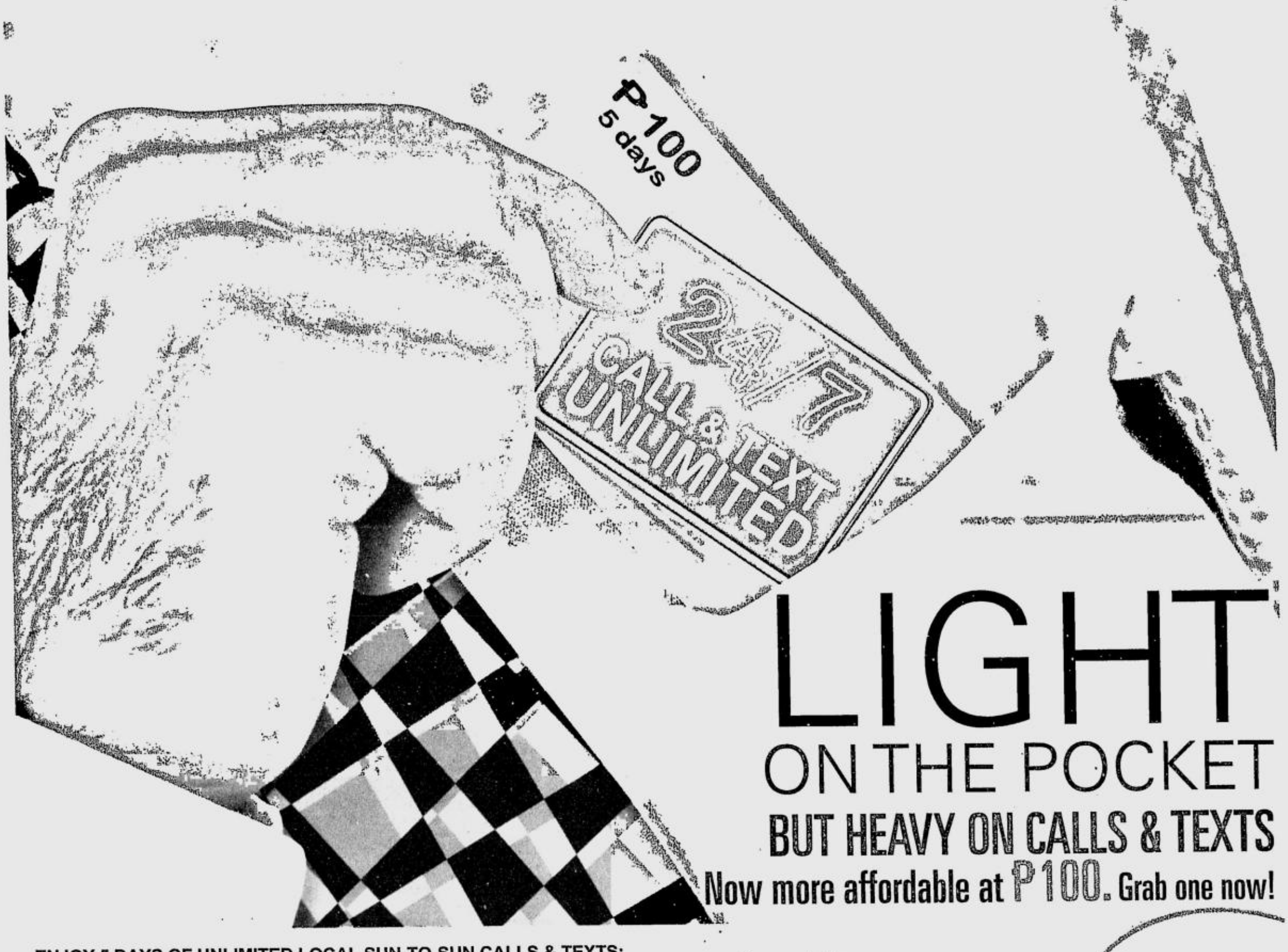
'Sexiest Chef Alive' Rocco Dispirito gets Manila stirring

THE OVEN ISN'T THE ONLY thing that raises temperatures in the kitchen these days. Not when you have the likes of Rocco Dispirito stirring the sauce. Yum!

Celeb chef Rocco, once hailed as "the Sexiest Chef Alive" by People magazine, the star of reality TV show, "The Restaurant," and best-selling cookbook author was jetted into Manila last week by the Ayala Malls to share a few of his award-winning dishes in interactive cooking demos. It was a treat to have the New York-based Italian-American chef as a guest in our neck of the woods, especially with the whole culinary craze jumping out of the kitchen and into the pop culture scene. (Yep, chefs are the new rock stars!)

The warm and down-to-earth Rocco instantly charmed the pants off the ladies in the room during the meet-and-greet luncheon at Pepato restaurant in Greenbelt. Then again, it isn't that hard to get 'em all swooning when you're tall, handsome, and able to make killer braised short ribs. Rocco had just flown in from Boracay, where he hit the island's *talipapa* and bought ingredients to whip up some squid adobo. Yet methinks it was the mention of *balut* that did it for me—apparently, trying out our infamous exotic delicacy was one of the first things he did when he arrived. His verdict? "Balut is perfect the way it is," he enthused, "I won't change anything about it." Props to him for being adventurous in our local gastronomic field, when most foreigners

LIVIN'/ D3



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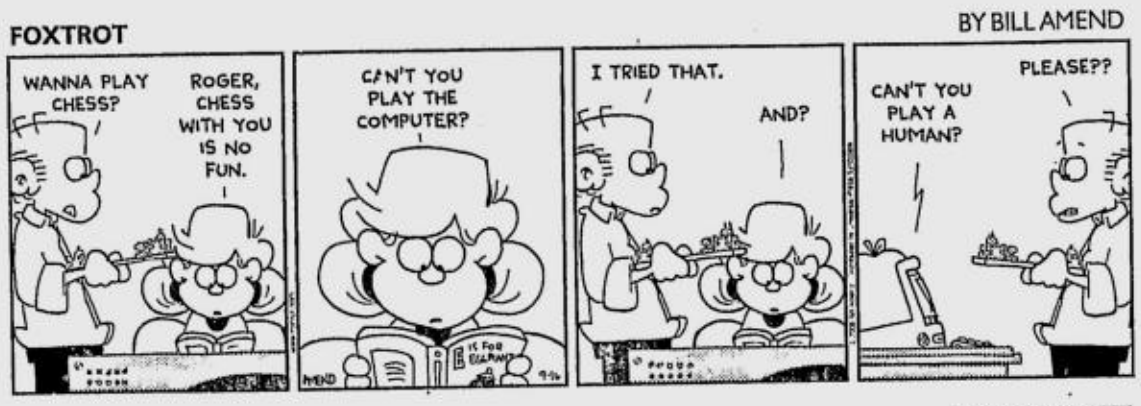
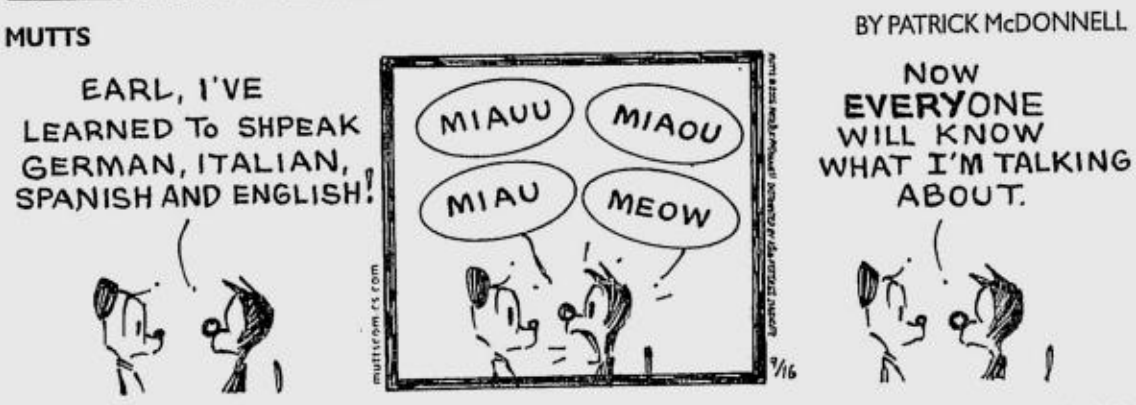


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

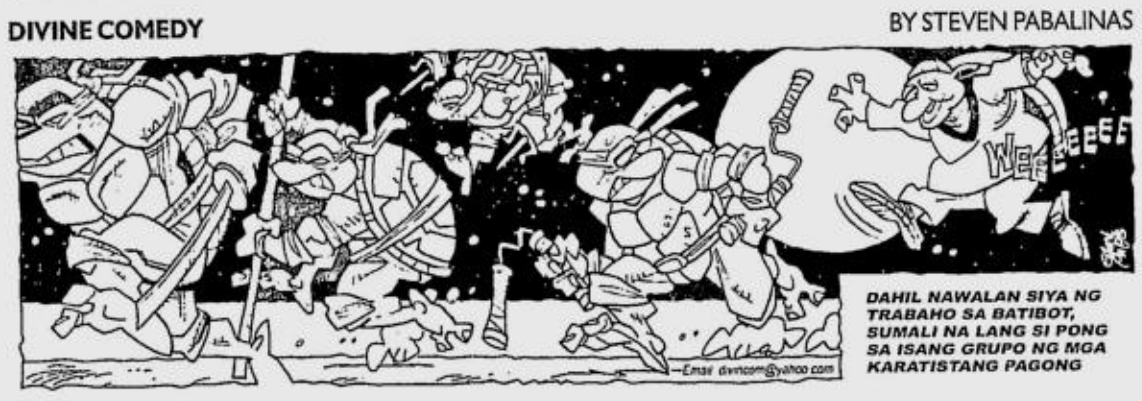
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

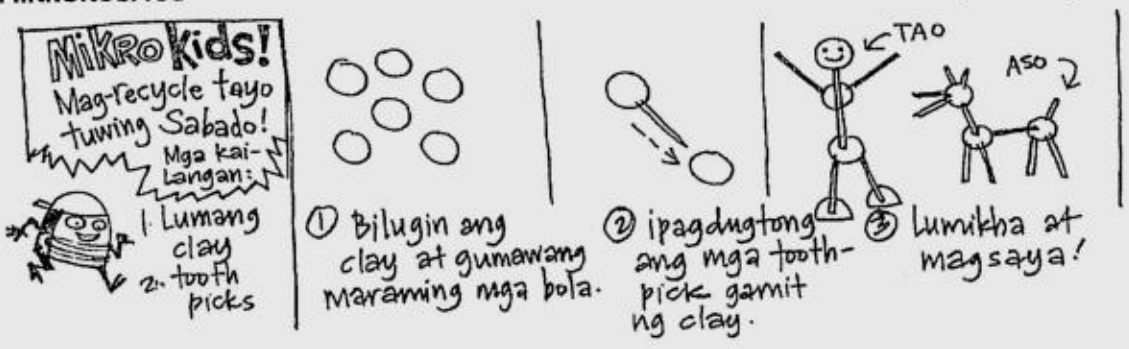
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



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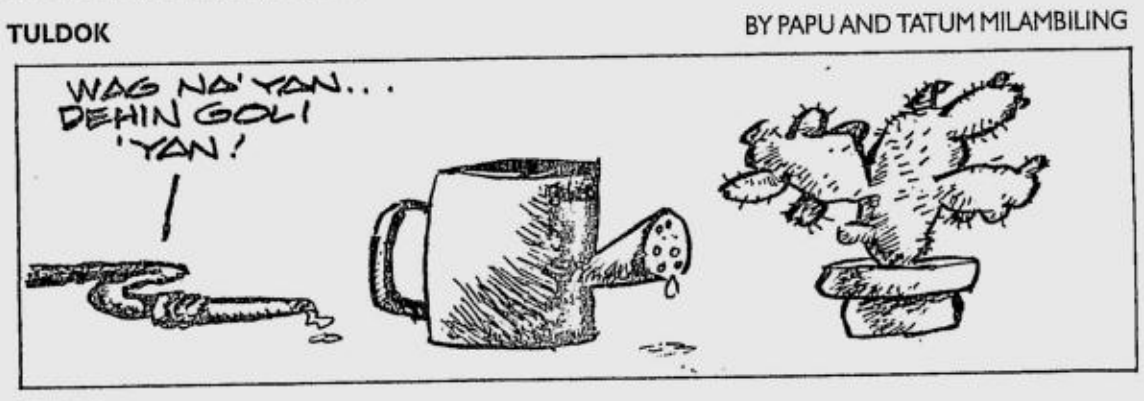
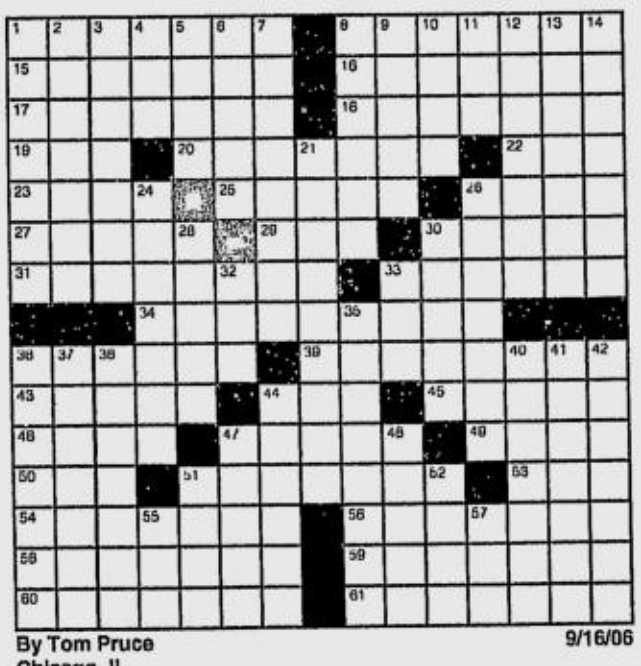


BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

9/16/06

ACROSS
1 Believes in
8 Lodgers
15 Hidden bed
16 Recant humbly
17 Libyan capital
18 Incentives
19 Boyz II __
20 Pascal collection
22 Five fifty-five in old Rome?
23 Italian eight
25 Turns obliquely
26 Quote as an authority
27 Sturdy
29 __-relief
30 Yuccalike plant
31 Mythical Greek king
33 Some sore throats
34 Female impersonator
36 Fistfights
39 Superfluous
43 Huntley and Atkins
44 Grave engraving
45 Old-time peep show
46 Vague state of mind
47 Reiner and Jung
49 "I Remember Mama" character
50 Worldwide workers' grp.
51 Short choral work
53 Davis Love __
54 Carrying a tune
56 Gangster Al and others
58 Three-time Wimbledon champion
59 K-2's neighbor
60 Entices
61 Gobi and Negev

DOWN
1 At the very back of the boat
2 M.L. King's widow
3 Hillary or Chelsea
4 Key-punch bus.
5 Stern deck
6 Bulrushes
7 Hemipterous insect
8 Repairs stitches
9 Author of "Expensive People"
10 Soul singer Redding
11 1900
12 Well-read
13 Desk type
14 Pivots
21 Ascidian
24 Make obsolete
26 Of part of the eye
28 Infield covers
30 Longhorn
32 Vegas opening
33 D.C. bigwig
35 Out of the running
36 Rifts
37 Classy cup
38 Changed neighborhood classifications
40 Sink adjunct
41 Superlatively weird
42 Stops
44 Open grasslands
47 Paddler's craft
48 Barrel slat
51 Rnd. line
52 Tarzan's foster family?
55 Wildebeest
57 Smelter fodder

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	A	M	O	■	A	S	C	A	P	■	S	C	I
B	A	B	A	R	■	N	I	O	B	E	■	E	O	N
B	R	I	D	A	L	T	R	A	I	N	■	P	R	E
E	S	T	A	T	E	■	R	E	D	S	■	T	A	R
■	■	■	M	O	W	E	R	S	■	A	T	I	L	T
U	L	C	E	R	■	R	O	E	■	N	E	C	■	■
S	Y	R	■	S	C	A	B	■	S	T	A	T	I	C
E	L	A	T	■	U	S	O	F	A	■	M	A	D	E
R	E	Z	O	N	E	■	C	L	X	V	■	N	O	R
■	■	Y	M	A	■	B	O	O	■	A	N	K	L	E
A	S	H	E	N	■	O	P	E	N	T	O	■	■	■
C	L	O	S	E	T	S	■	■	T	I	N	H	A	T
T	A	R	■	T	E	N	N	I	S	C	O	A	C	H
O	K	S	■	T	R	I	E	R	■	A	N	N	I	E
N	E	E	■	E	N	A	T	E	■	N	O	D	D	Y

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9/16/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a generous spirit. You're giving to others, but demanding of yourself. Because you're hardworking, you have the ability to master a particular technique to an excellent degree. You dream big and nurture great plans for the future. You work well with others. The year ahead is pleasantly social and favorable for relationships.
Birthdate of: Marc Anthony, singer/actor; Alexis Bledel, actress; B.B. King, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to go on a diet or to get rid of anything that you don't need. Power struggles at work are possible. Avoid any confrontations if you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Powerful forces connected with your children (if you're a parent) could arise today. Alternatively, don't be pushy with children today. Be cautious about gambling.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Domestic clashes and arguments with partners are likely today. Now that you know this, you can avoid these disturbing situations. If you see something starting to brew, run in the other direction!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): People are definitely in a pushy frame of mind today (including you). Therefore, avoid situations where arguments can flare up. Patience is the antidote to anger. (Try it.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel obsessed about possessions or financial situations today. You might insist on buying something or selling something. Why not just lighten up a little?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Avoid power struggles with family members, especially parents, today. Others want you to account for yourself. Machinery breakdowns are likely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Secrets or nasty gossip could become an issue today. It's human nature to gossip; nevertheless, if it hurts somebody, why even go there? (Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A friend or a member of a group might challenge you today. You'll derive much satisfaction by proving yourself in the eyes of others. Hold your course.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Bosses or parents might exert powerful pressure on you to do something. The way you want to do things is being tested. You might have to let go of old patterns of behavior.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Do not be rigid in your political or religious views. There are many paths to the truth. Because the truth is so all encompassing, it is not narrow or confined.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might see now that you can no longer hold on to something that you were sharing with someone else. This could be a good thing (just like letting go of a hot pot).

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Conversations with partners and close friends are not easy today. Power struggles could ensue. People might ask you to explain your position about something.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		7						
	5		8				7	
		6		1		2		3
			2		5		3	
		2				4		
	1		7		8			
1		5		3		6		
	8				6		2	
						1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/16

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	7	1	4	5	9	6	8
5	4	8	2	6	9	1	3	7
1	9	6	3	8	7	4	5	2
7	8	5	9	3	6	2	4	1
6	1	9	7	2	4	3	8	5
4	3	2	5	1	8	7	9	6
8	6	3	4	7	2	5	1	9
9	7	1	8	5	3	6	2	4
2	5	4	6	9	1	8	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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10 super reasons why you must watch
The Amazing Race 10

MEET the 12 teams who are set to travel the globe during the 10th installment of the three-time Emmy Award winning reality series.

THE AMAZING RACE IS BACK WITH another exhilarating season on AXN starting Sept. 18 at 8:30 p.m. with subsequent episodes every Monday at 9 p.m. Twelve brand new teams of two will be dashing around the world in their quest for the grand prize of one million dollars. As if the promise of super adrenaline rush isn't enough—we give you 10 super reasons to watch The Amazing Race 10!

1: Never-Seen-Before Diversity of Teams

This season's contestants are the most diverse bunch in the history of The Amazing Race.

2: A One-Legged Race, literally...

Watch whether Peter and Sarah, both Iron Man competitors who have a long history of teamwork, have what it takes to beat the rest of the teams despite amputee Sarah's artificial leg.

3: Family Feuds and Sibling Showdowns

Season 10 promises more emotional frenzy than ever before. If you think you've seen how nasty the tantrums and quarrels can possibly get, wait till you witness some of the meltdowns on The Amazing Race 10! Having grown up in the shadow of his Harvard-educated brother Erwin, will Godwin's competitive side enrich or endanger the brotherhood? Contestants Lauren and her father Duke were estranged for several years and they are now trying to rebuild their relationship. Will the strain of The Amazing Race force a Detour in their path towards stronger kinship?

4: Will Love Save the Day?

Past seasons have seen their fair share of couples struggling towards the finish line. This time around, get set for more emotional roller coasters! Barfender Rob and his girlfriend Kimberly have dated for the last two years and recently moved in together—will they be able to overcome all odds to win the race?

5: Hunks and Babes Aplenty

Check out blonde beauties Dustin and Kandice—inseparable friends and Miss USA contestants who differ in personality while sharing a strong competitive streak. Their pageant rivalry may be a thing of the past but will tension rise between them when the going gets rough?

With their dashing good looks, models Tyler and James are sure to send pulses racing for multiple reasons! They have been best friends ever since their stints in rehab—will their newfound lease on life lead them to the finish line?

6: It's Phil-tastic!

The man at the mat—who can resist Phil Keoghan, host of The Amazing Race?

7: Exotic Locations, Tougher Challenges and Culture Shock

In another "first" for the show, contestants will cross the Pacific Ocean from Seattle, the starting point, in the very first leg of the season! Unlike in previous first legs, contestants will find themselves thrown in the deep end—in this case, Asia—right from the start! With language and cultural barriers sure to stump some, if not all, of the contestants, Season 10's tough locations will make for some exhilarating and amusing viewing pleasure!

8: Get Yourself in the Mood for AXN's Very Own, The Amazing Race Asia

By watching The Amazing Race 10, you can gear up for the much-anticipated The Amazing Race Asia, hosted by Singapore-based celebrity Allan Wu. The Amazing Race Asia will feature contestants selected out of a massive pool of Asian applicants—who knows, there might be Filipino contestants competing in that race! The Amazing Race Asia will be aired before the year ends. "It will be a homegrown treat for Asian fans of The Amazing Race series," says Ricky Ow, general manager of SPE Networks-Asia.

9: Stand a Chance to Win the Latest Nokia Nseries Mobile Phone!

You can test your The Amazing Race knowledge by participating in The Amazing Race quiz available on www.axn-asia.com! Answer the quiz and get a chance to win a coveted Nokia phone!

10: It Just Won an Emmy— Again!

The Amazing Race recently won its fourth Emmy award—a testament to its immense popularity and outstanding quality. This is the fourth consecutive Emmy win for The Amazing Race in the "Best Reality-Competition Television Program" category.

40,000 miles, 30 days, 12 teams and a million dollars. Join veteran host Phil Keoghan on what promises to be The Amazing Race's best and most dramatic season yet!

Want to experience what it is like to be in The Amazing Race Asia? Join AXN when the Amazing Race Asia Promotional Tour comes to Manila on Sept. 30, 2006 at the Mall of Asia. Log on to www.axn-asia.com for more details!

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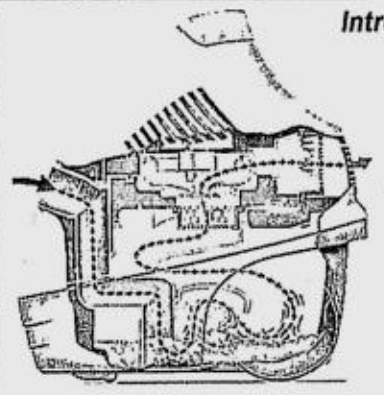

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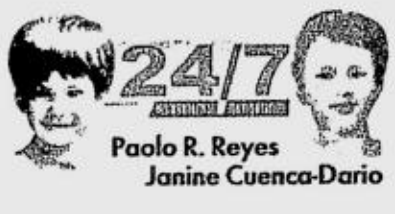
Chick Flick



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT that a low-budget French documentary (about flightless birds, of all things) would beat "War of the Worlds" and "Batman Begins" at the box office?

Having earned over $70 million in the US alone, "March of the Penguins"—the spellbinding 2005 Oscar-winner for Best Documentary—remains the sixth-highest grossing independent film of all time, and arguably the most successful documentary to date.

Last Wednesday, Unitel Pictures premiered the Filipino version of the 80-minute film, "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?," which is now showing in selected theaters, including Glorietta, Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, Alabang Town Center, Gateway, Market! Market!, Festival Mall, and Robinsons Galleria.

Following in the footsteps of Morgan Freeman (who lent his lyrical voice to the American version), Sharon Cuneta narrates the riveting tale of the regal Emperor penguins of Antarctica.

Every March, since the beginning of time, the Emperors begin a quest to find the perfect mate. But this is no ordinary courtship. It begins with a long journey through a vast labyrinth of ice—one that will force them to trudge through an entire continent by foot, in freezing cold temperatures, through perilous waters. They will risk starvation and predatory attacks, under merciless climates, all to find true love.

It's a commendable cinematic effort on the part of first-time director Luc Jacquet, one that would have invoked a loud "Crikey!" from the late wildlife enthusiast Steve Irwin. Bless his soul.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Sept. 16, Saturday

Strange Days: A Tribute to The Doors at Conspiracy; Drip at Mag:net Café; Sugarfree, Happy Meals & Cambio at Saguijo; Bacardi Bling w/ DJ McCoy at Vida Malate; Urban Groove at Citrus; Weekender w/ DJs Paolo Maralit & Cao Ocampo at Jill's; Bringin' Back the Bounce at Mati; Sleepless at Embassy Club; Party On! w/ DJs Buddha & JD at Absinth; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; Spy at '70s Bistro; House Groovin' at Mezze; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Lounge-O-Rama w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Wham Bam at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Drag-on Saturdays at Bed; Flinstones at Shang Streetscape

Sept. 17, Sunday

Unitel's "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?" at local cinemas; Godot, Wer Is U? at CCP Studio Theater; Clarion Chamber's Siegfried and the Gemini Pianists at Philamlife Theater; Trumpet's Joseph The Dreamer at SM Megamall Cinema 4

Sept. 18, Monday

Movie Night at Azzurro Linden Suites; Jazz Night at Conspiracy; CanU DIGGIT? w/ DJs Red-I & Brandon Umali at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?" at local cinemas; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

Sept. 19, Tuesday

24/7's I-ON D2N Party feat. DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Radio Active Sago Project & Wahijuara at Mag:net Café; Music & Food Festival at Conspiracy; Boy Elroy, Chicosci, Wild Mood Swings & Death By Tampon at Saguijo; Kickback at Manila DJ Club; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar; Souled Out band at Merk's

Sept. 20, Wednesday

Up Dharma Down at '70s Bistro; Mayonnaise at Saguijo; Champagne M. at 6 Underground; "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" at local cinemas; Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; Discotech at Mezze; DJ Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Mag:net Café ; Jazz Night w/ Judith Banal at Merk's

Sept. 21, Thursday

Martial Law Anniv: Jam for Freedom! at Conspiracy; Boy Elroy & Milagros Dance Hall Collective at Saguijo; Brownman Revival at '70s Bistro; Coup w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Flamma; Reggae Night at 6Underground; Rouge Thursdays w/ Soundsgood at M Café; SPIT at Mag:net Café; DJ Elian at Nuvo; GottaHave-House at Capone's;G Lounge at Mezze; Pure Latin w/ DJ Arnel at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxxe Thursdays at Absinth; Stella Ruiz & H20 band at Merk's

Sept. 22, Friday

Harlem: High School Party feat. Salamin, Severo, Fire Poi dancers, DJs Gino & DJ G-String at Greenmeadows Clubhouse, Pasig; Circa 1849 at Conspiracy; Decadance w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; House Sessions w/ DJs Marc Naval, Bombi Balquiedra & Jakey Yulo at Flamma; DJs Patch & Mon Maramba at Absinth; DJs JP Sacaben & Nix Pernia at Azzurro Linden Suites; DJ Steve Mills at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; Blue's Rock Night at Mag:net Café; My-HOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; DJs Darrel & McDash at Temple; The Jerks at '70s Bistro; Route 70 at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Acoustic Jive at Shang Streetscape

Livin' La Vida Rocco

From page D1

would develop gastro-intestinal flu at the mere mention of well, aborted duck fetus.

Yet adventure is something that spices up Rocco's culinary canon of living the good life. The 39-year old graduated from the Culinary Institute of America, and thereafter went to Paris to immerse himself in French food and wine at the prominent Jardin de Cygne restaurant. He developed a fusion cooking style that incorporates Asian ingredients and traditional French techniques. His list of praises in the media is a long one, Gourmet magazine to Food and Wine, The New York Times and New York Magazine.

Rocco shared that he was only 11 years old when he first played an active role in his mother's kitchen. In his younger years, he walked up and down the streets of Queens in New York, looking for a job that paid better than $2.50 a week, until he found work in a pizzeria. While working there, he became attracted to the polar nature of structure and creativity that goes into cooking.

The star chef says he enjoys cooking for everyone and anyone, even for the less adventurous. "You cook to make others happy before you even make yourself happy," he shares. It is this nurturing quality that he believes makes cooking so seductive. "I think what makes cooking sexy is that it is such a generous, giving and pure act." So what's his recommended recipe for a hot date? "Risotto!" he exclaims, "because it takes a long time to cook, you have to stir it for 40 minutes... and after watching me stir that long, hopefully she'd fall for me!"

Mmm... Rocco's Risotto. Gotta get a taste of that!

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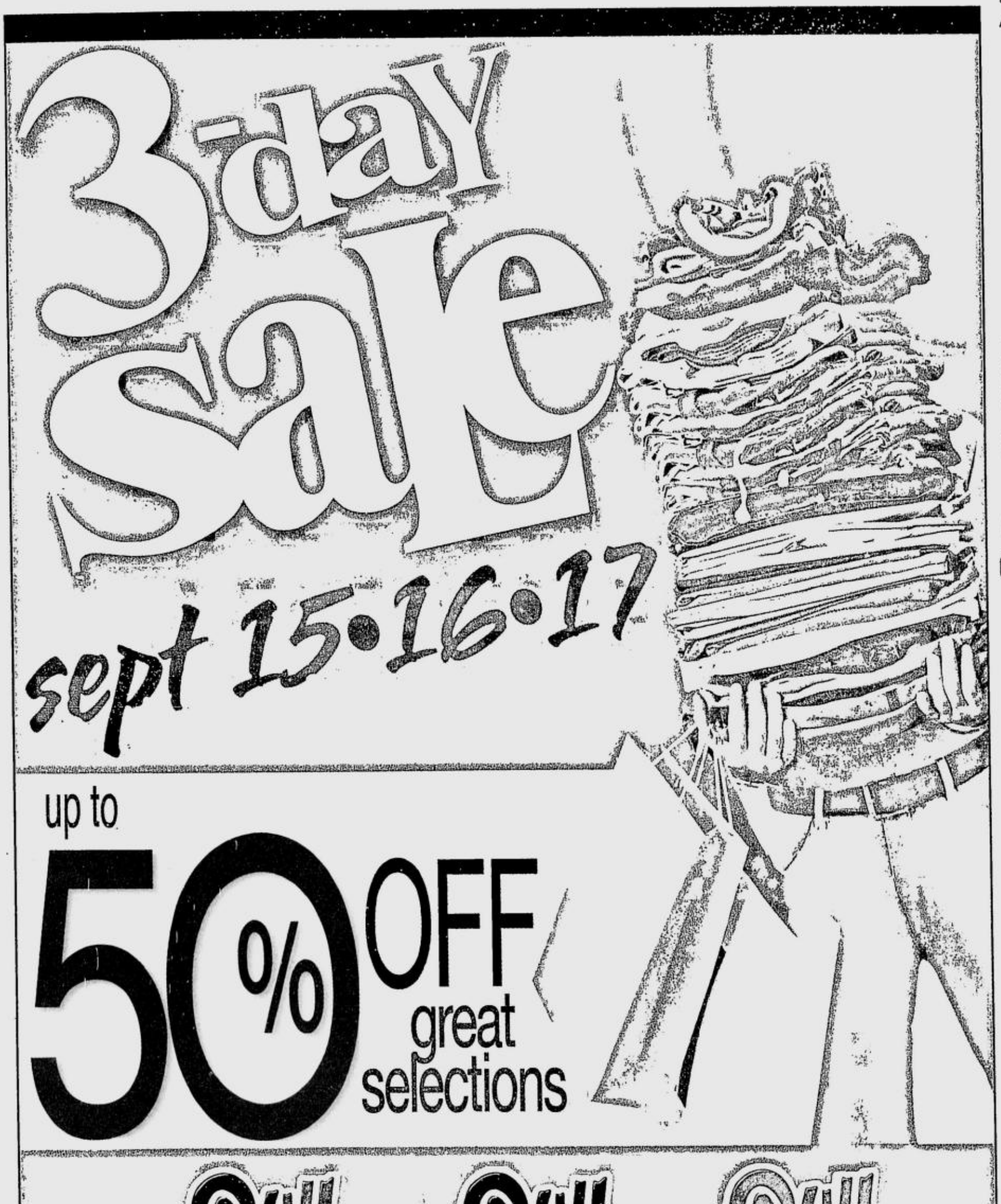

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Sunday Sept. 17, (8 winners)
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2, 4, 6 -10pm

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2, 4, 6 -10pm

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SATURDAY Special

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** • *Assistant Editor* **Rito P. Asilo**

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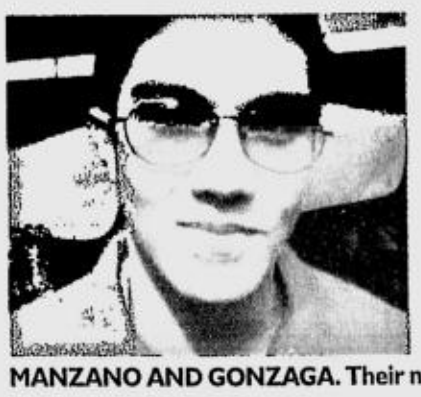
DIZON. Focused characterization.

Two new TV series vie for viewers' nod

By Nestor U. Torre



MANZANO AND GONZAGA. Their new show was shot in Spain.

LAST MONDAY, TWO NEW *TELE-seryes* made their debut on the TV screen—"Bakekang" on GMA-7, and "Crazy for You" on ABS-CBN Channel 2. It's too early to say which show merits our viewership more, so let's lay the groundwork with these initial notes on the shows' first three telecasts:

Sunshine Dizon is affecting in "Bakekang" because she plays her "ugly duckling" role in a sweet, straightforward manner; without excessive melodrama.

Too predictable

But, her "ugly fan in love with handsome film star" (Jay Manalo) character is too predictable to be all that interesting. The best portrayal of this type of character was Nora Aunor's in the film, "Bona," and "Bakekang" is really her dim country cousin.

We're also underwhelmed by the problem that Manalo's character has been given: The popular film star is sad and confused, because he doesn't know if people love him for himself or for his fame and fortune. —How dated can you get?

Still, "Bakekang" bears watching in our book, even if it's "only" a TV melodrama, principally for Dizon's focused characterization.

For its part, Channel 2's "Crazy for You" fields the new TV love team of Luis Manzano and Toni Gonzaga, with John Prats, Pokwang and Jestoni Alarcon playing support.

The new show's big come-on is the fact that it's been shot in Barcelona, Spain. That gives the production a fresh look that invites viewers to at least take a peek at it.

Unfortunately, this plus point has a potentially negative side to it, because it could occasionally pull the show down to the facile level of a "travel dramedy."

Also, GMA-7 recently went pretty much the same route with "I Luv New York," so Channel 2's new show, deservedly or not, has an imitative coloration to it.

We also note that the new *teleserye* has very little that's Spanish about it, beyond the fact that Toni's employer (who ends up firing her) is a Spanish *doña*.

Cultural vacuum

Most of its first telecasts' scenes focused exclusively on its Filipino characters, so they ended up appearing to live in a cultural vacuum.

Manzano does well in the show, but Gonzaga and Pokwang are too

TWO NEW/ E4

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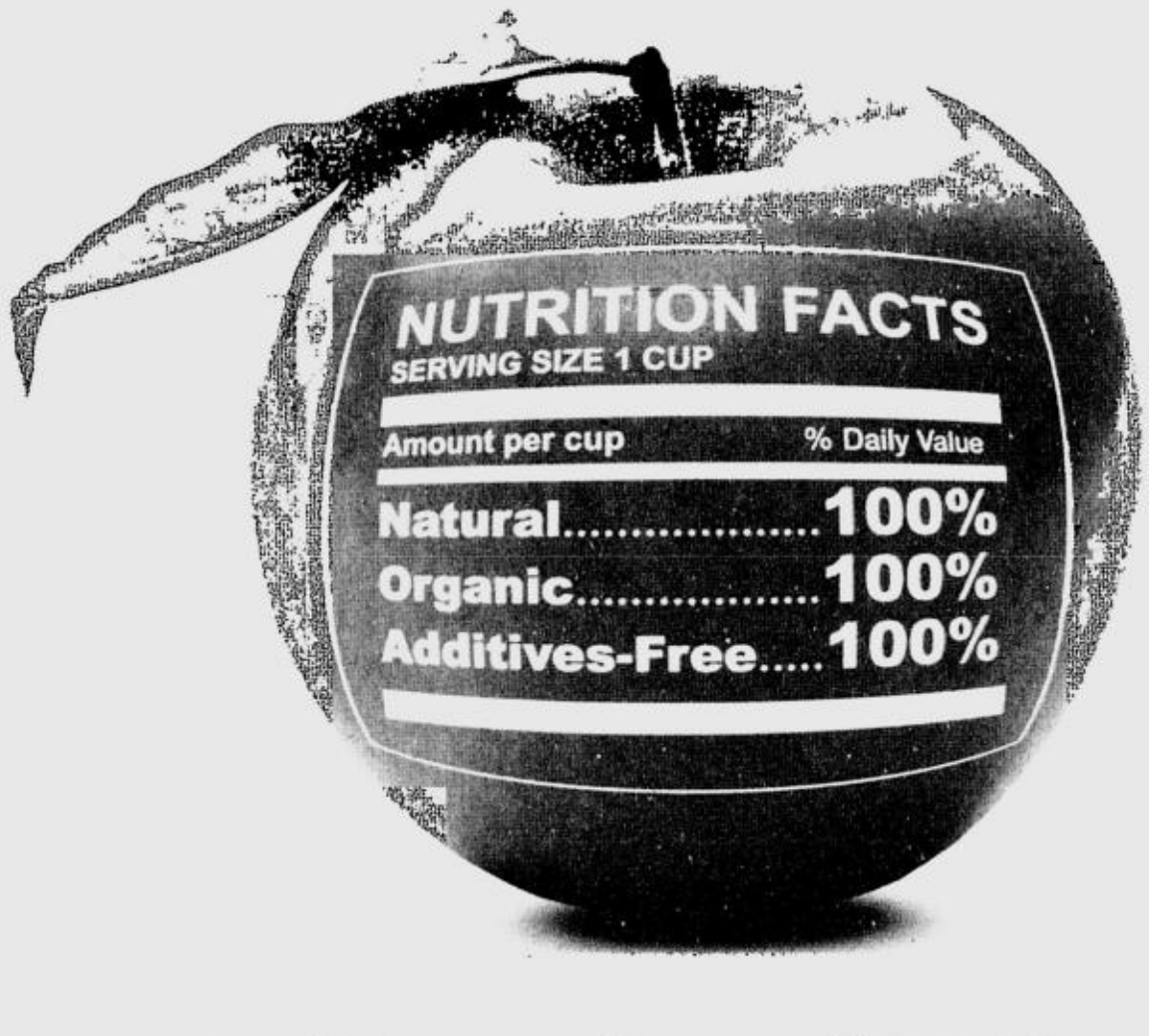

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 SCOOP
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

4 CRANK
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
11:20 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

6 RESERVE

7 BINIBINING K
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 THE WICKER MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 MONSTER HOUSE 1:00 3:20
PENGUIN, PENGUIN 5:30 7:35 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CRANK
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE 11:40 1:40 3:40
THE WICKER MAN 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 MONSTER HOUSE 12:00 2:00 4:00
PENGUIN, PENGUIN 6:10 8:00 9:50

4 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 BINIBINING K
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

7 SCOOP
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

3 THE WICKER MAN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

4 MONSTER HOUSE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00

5 SCOOP
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

7 CRANK
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

8 RESERVE

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1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
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4 MONSTER HOUSE

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4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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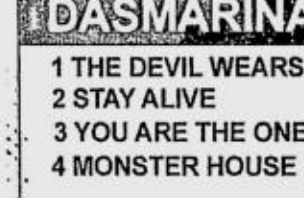
5 MIAMI VICE
6 MORTUARY

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 MORTUARY



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ASILO. Plays Nene Pimentel.

Rito Asilo, Jane Diaz topbill 'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' repeats

By Andy Bais

DIAZ as Bing.

LAST FEBRUARY, NESTOR TORRE and Bing Pimentel's musical on martial law, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan, " reaped praise and appreciation for its powerful depiction of one of the darkest periods in the Philippines' contemporary history.

The production was acclaimed for its ability to fuse grim reality and inspiration, relevant content and enlightening entertainment, and for informing the country's youth about an important national experience that took place before they were born.

"Pag-ibig sa Bayan" will be performed anew on Sept. 23 at the Meralco Theater, to highlight the latest observance of the imposition of martial law. It will also be staged in Davao City and Cagayan de Oro City.

Message

The musical drama's affecting message about the innate nobility and courage of the Filipino in fighting for the restoration of freedom is depicted in the harsh effects that martial law had on the family of Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. and his wife, Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel, who composed the play's many beautiful and powerful songs. Torre's script for the musical was based on Sen. Pimentel's book, "Martial Law in the Philippines: My Story."

Topbilling the latest performance series of "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" are acclaimed musical theater talents Rito Asilo as Nene and Jane Diaz as Bing.

Title role

Asilo has been active in theater for more than 10 years. The lead roles he has played include Jesus Christ in Ryan Cayabyab's hit religious musical, "Magnificat," various principal characters in Bing Pimentel's other musical, "Nasaan si Hesus?," Juan Maningcad in Torre's "Mapaghimalang Kamay ng Birhen ng Caysasay" at the CCP, Miguel in "Magsimula Ka," and the title role in "Padre Pio."

He is also the Associate Artistic Director of the New Voice Company, for which he has directed "The Vagina Monologues" and "Sacrilege," and co-directed "Cabaret" with Monique Wilson.

Asilo's next directorial assignment is Eve Ensler's "The Good Body" in November at Music Museum, again for NVC.

As an actor, Asilo's NVC outings include important roles in "Aspects of Love," "Stop Kiss" and "Falsettos." He is also a choreographer and lyricist.

Female lead

For her part, Jane Diaz has been performing with the world-famous Madrigal Singers for years, but "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" is the first musical where she is playing the female lead.

Despite this relative lack of experience in musical

RITO/E4

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SCOOP 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	YOU, ME & DUPREE 7:00 / 9:20	MONSTER HOUSE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00	
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	THE WICKER MAN 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	PENGUIN, PENGUIN... 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:55 / 4:15 / 6:35 / 8:55

KiMALL 5

1	YOU ARE THE ONE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	CRANK 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25	3 THE WICKER MAN 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
4	BINIBINING K 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	AMERICAN DREAMZ 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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From lackluster starlets to glittering stars

From page E4

Ava Gardner was a simple Southern tomboy who didn't think of fame until her photographer/brother-in-law exhibited her portrait in his shop. The picture of the very beautiful teenager caught the attention of an influential agent—and the rest is history.

However, before she was tapped to star in "The Killers," Gardner went through the Hollywood mill and appeared in many B-movies, before she was immortalized in "One Touch of Venus," "Pandora" and "The Barefoot Contessa."

Menial work

Many Hollywood stars financed their way to fame by doing menial work. The great Marlon Brando, for instance, worked at different jobs in Nebraska after he was expelled from a Minnesota military academy.

His actress-mother encouraged the rebellious young man to head for New York. After his Broadway success in "A Streetcar Named Desire," director Elia Kazan cast the actor in the film adaptation of the Tennessee Williams classic—and Brando never looked back!

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2 SCOOP
MTRCB PG-13
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

3 MONSTER HOUSE
MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:15, 5:30
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB. PG-13 7:30, 10:00

4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
MTRCB: PG-13
1:00, 3:15, 5:30 7:45, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
YOU, ME AND DUPREE / CRANK
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MTRCB R-13 7:20, 9:30

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MONSTER HOUSE G 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	YOU ME AND DUPREE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	SCOOP PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25
CRANK R13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE PG13 12:10,2:10,4:10,6:10, 8:10,10:10

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G1	1 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE
G4	1 CRANK	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE WICKER MAN	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
GB1	1 SCOOP		2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	
GB3	1 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CRANK GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS		2 SCOOP	
	3 CRANK	4 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	5 YOU, ME & DUPREE	
ACC	1 MONSTER HOUSE	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 CRANK	4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
M2	1 CRANK		2 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	
	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	

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September 8 and 29 Paolo Santos

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Komedya Foundation *fulfills a dream*

SEVEN ACTORS FROM SAN DIONiso, Parañaque are passionately pursuing a dream. They have taken the first step by establishing the Komedya Pilipinas Foundation to present the *komedya,* "Perlita ng Silangan," directed by Soxy Topacio, on Oct. 12-15, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Olivares Coliseum, Sucat, Parañaque. The original script was written by Dra. Felicidad Mendoza with additional verses by Rodante Hernandez.

(FROM TOP, CLOCKWISE) Guerrero, De Guzman, Paule and Madrigal lead cast of "Perlita ng Silangan."

Footsteps

Honed in the art of the *komedya* to follow the footsteps their parents and grandparents have taken, the foundation's members are Rodante and Gleci Hernandez, Alex and Eileen Guerrero, Dekster and Maricel Santos, and Amor Hernandez.

For years, they have appeared in and directed *komedyas* staged in their homes. They are now prepared to bring the tradition out of their small community and into the national arena.

To help achieve this, they have enlisted the help of actors who have gained a foothold in the movie and television world—Wowie de Guzman, Allan Paule, Marcus Madrigal, Dido de la Paz, Jojit Lorenzo, Alex Guerrero and Kimberly Diaz. In cameo appearances are Tommy Abuel as Jose Rizal and Alma Concepcion as Gabriela Silang.

ABUEL. Appears in a cameo as Jose Rizal.

For Tommy, appearing in a *komedya* is nothing new, having played "Principe Rodante" in 1969, with Celeste Legaspi as his leading lady. The acclaimed actor will also topbill the group's December offering, "Haring Rabanar."

The *komedya* tradition has been kept alive through the centuries by various communities, with San Dionisio as the most famous in the Tagalog region.

Unique art form

The unique art form is more popularly known as the *moro-moro,* a term which was coined during 400 years of Spanish domination.

The *komedya* is the only indigenous form of dramatic art that traces its beginnings to pre-Spanish times.

Call Komedya Pilipinas at 825-2660, or Maricel Santos at 787-7276.

From lackluster starlets to glittering stars

By Behn Cervantes

WHO WAS GRETA GUSTAFSson, and what was her screen name when she was immortalized in "Camille" and "Catherine the Great"? Well, she was the incomparable Greta Garbo, who, in "Grand Hotel," declared: "I want to be alone!"

Garbo fiercely fought for privacy throughout her life, which added further allure to her already enigmatic personality.

Plump teenager

Before taking up a course in drama in Stockholm as a rather plump teenager, Garbo worked in a barbershop as a lather girl.

Soon after, she became a salesgirl. It was during this period that she was discovered by Mauritz Stiller, one of Sweden's most influential filmmakers, and she found fame even before she turned into Hollywood's iconic ice goddess.

How about Roy Schierer? Before the world knew him as the glamorous Rock Hudson ("Giant," "Magnificent Obsession"), he was a mechanic. He took on odd jobs while awaiting his stellar destiny.

He would become one of Tinseltown's top male stars in the '50s and '60s. His imaginative agents decided to rechristen him Rock to conjure up macho qualities. His height and voice certainly lent themselves to that image—until he fell ill to Aids.

Burt Lancaster was noted as a macho actor after his debut in the film adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's famous short story, "The Killers," co-starring Ava Gardner. Because of the film's subsequent commercial success, he was soon starring in commercial hits and artistic successes like "Come Back, Little Sheba," where he was cast opposite Shirley Booth.

He didn't show his other skills until years later when he appeared with Italian sex kitten Gina Lollobrigida in "Carnival," about life in the Big Tent.

Acrobat

Burt was at home in the role because, prior to Hollywood glitz, he earned his living as an acrobat in a troupe called Lang and Cravat, a circus group he himself formed.

Lana Turner, one of show biz's most famous blondes, was known as the Sweater Girl at the start of her enviable career, because the curvaceous beauty "stretched" her sweaters to their utmost limits.

HUDSON. First worked as a mechanic.

The cameras understandably focused on her bosomy silhouette. Turner's sex appeal justified why "the postman always rang twice."

However, before she starred in such classics as "The Three Musketeers" and "Peyton Place," Lana was a mere soda fountain waitress. But, the famous sweater brought celebrity to the Hollywood goddess.

FROM LACKLUSTER/ E3

Two new TV series...

From page E1

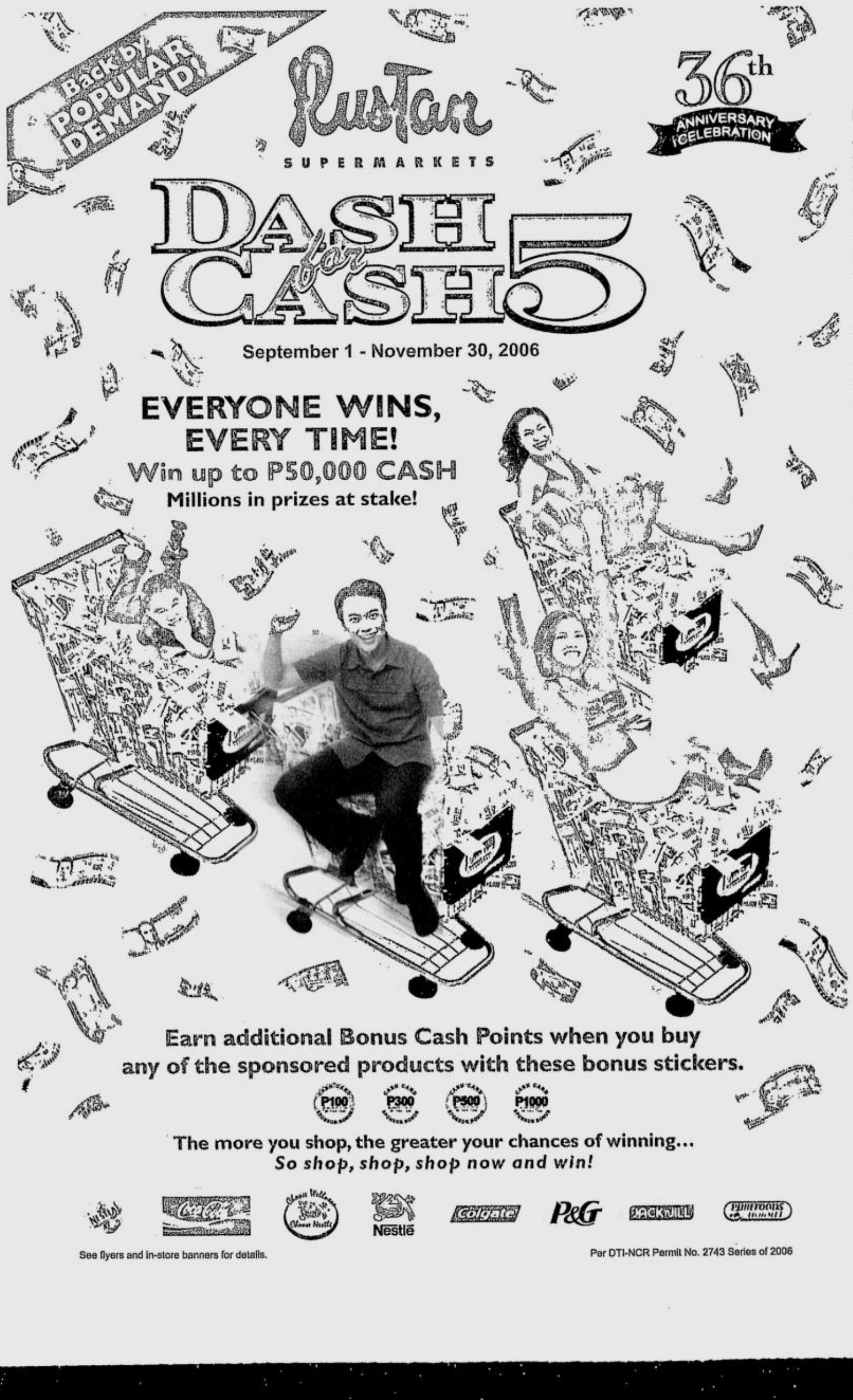
ditzy and flighty, acting up a storm for ostensible comic effect.

Gonzaga loses more points after the viewer reflects that her performance here is much like her portrayal in her first film, "You Are the One."

The actress should really be more creative and versatile, now that she's busy on both the TV and film screens. Otherwise, it won't be long before viewers dismiss her as a limited and predictable performer.

On the brighter side, the new show's visuals are agreeably perky and varied, so the eye is entertained.

But, we wish that the production's actors could be similarly vital—without resorting to shrieking and slapstick-ing in the goony name of so-called comedy.



Paul Soriano is a chip off the old block

By Jocelyn Valle

TWENTY TWO YEARS AGO, Nestor de Villa's son, Jeric Soriano, directed his first movie, "Hotshots," starring, among others, Aga Muhlach and Gary Valenciano. Alas, the well-received effort also turned out to be his last, because he chose to concentrate on doing TV commercials.

Now, Jeric's son, Paul, picks up where his dad left off. "Directing is a career for me," declares the budding director, whose resume includes the short film, "Sayaw" (shown at a Greenbelt screening last May), and the music video for retro band Johnny's "Baon sa Limot."

Workshops

Paul, 24, who has attended film workshops in Los Angeles, California, recently formed Holy Cowboy Productions with friends, Mark Corpuz and Mark Victor. The outfit produces music videos, as well as short and feature-length films.

Holy Cowboy's latest projects include three music videos for Gary V's latest album, "Relevance." Paul created a distinct look for each of them:

"Shake It Off" shows three personas of the pop star interacting with one another; "Huwag Mo na Sanang Isipin" presents the performer with his daughter, Kiana, in a carnival setting, and "What You Want" is Gary's latest duet with Regine Velasquez.

SORIANO. Picks up where his dad left off.

While Soriano feels the pressure of working with two of the industry's biggest singers, he also sees it as a blessing. Needless to say, the young director is thrilled to work with Gary, whose music and videos inspire him. He singles out "Shout for Joy" and "Break Me" as his favorites.

Paul observes that local MTVs are getting better, and he wants his videos to stand out for innovation. "I want to tell a story through music videos," he elucidates. "I'd like to be remembered as a good storyteller."

Advice

Soriano looks up to his dad, whose advice he treasures. He shares: "He reminds me to pray before a shoot and do my best all the time."

UST stages 'Onegin' opera at CCP

MANILA'S OPERA SCENE WILL come to life once more with the Philippine premiere of Tchaikovsky's immortal opera, "Eugene Onegin," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 30 at 3 and 8 p.m. under Floy Quintos' direction.

Celebration

Mounted by the UST Conservatory of Music under Dean Raul Sunico as part of the celebration of the quadricentennial of the University of Santo Tomas, "Eugene Onegin" will be sung by baritones Andrew Fernando and Noel Azcona alternating in the title role, with sopranos Rachelle Gerodias and Thea Perez as Tatyana.

Others in the cast are Clarissa Ocampo and Rexceluz Evangelista as Olga, Nenen Espina as Filippyevna, Ronan Ferrer and Rando Gilongo as Lensky, Naomi Sison and Patrice Pacis as Larina, Lemuel de la Cruz and Eugene de los Santos as Triquet, June Jaranilla as Prince Gremlin, Emmanuel Baang as Zaretsky and Aristotle Molina as the Captain.

Call the UST Conservatory of Music (tel. 731-4022), CCP (832-11125), or TicketWorld (891-9999).

Rito Asilo, Jane Diaz...

From page E2

theater, Diaz has reaped rave reviews for her excellent portrayal of Bing Pimentel in the show, with special mention being made of her beautiful and expressive singing voice, and her focused and versatile dramatic sense.

Now US-based, Jane is flying back to Manila this weekend for the pick-up rehearsals of "Pag-iBig sa Bayan," and is looking forward to performing the musical in other parts of the country, as well.

Call Ruby at 851-3120.

SATURDAY *special*

NOW SHOWING: Elegant wit, wicked humor in Jackman, Johansson starrer

By Rito P. Asilo

"Scoop"

D: Woody Allen
S: Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson, Woody Allen

AMBITION TRUMPS ROMANCE IN Woody Allen's exquisite romantic-comedy thriller reminiscent of the Cary Grant or Clark Gable starrers directed by the likes of Howard Hawks ("His Girl Friday," "Bringing Up Baby"), Frank Capra ("It Happened One Night") and Preston Sturges ("Palm Beach Story").

The film follows the adventures of student journalist, Sondra (Scarlett Johansson), who encounters intrigue, murder and romance while visiting friends in London.

With the help of Joe Strombel (Ian McShane)—a recently deceased journalist with a nose for malice and tabloid mayhem—and quirky magician Sid Waterman (Allen), the Nancy Drew wannabe pursues the investigative trail for the career-making scoop of a lifetime:

The dead man's clues lead the nosey American sleuth to dashing British aristocrat, Peter Lyman (Hugh Jackman), who, Strombel swears, is the Tarot Card Serial Killer!

Unfortunately, Sondra soon finds herself smitten by the devilish charms of the handsome Englishman. But, if she doesn't play her cards right, she might end up with a dead-end trail—and a broken heart! Worse, she might end up dead herself!

A worthy follow-up to last year's "Match Point" (which also starred Johansson), Allen delivers a delightful albeit not wholly original whodunit with a hefty comic paunch. The production elicits laughter with its frenetic candor and slapstick verbal flourishes. Allen deftly splices his brand of wicked wit and urban humor with the movie's dark themes of dramatic intrigue and extortion.

Thankfully, the 70-year-old filmmaker abandons his common practice of romancing his vivacious leading ladies on the big screen. In his latest opus, he relegates leading-man duties to the charismatic Jackman, who evinces the charisma and masculine grace of Cary Grant. Hugh and Scarlett are a pretty pair to behold—the duo makes their scenes sizzle with their onscreen spark and relaxed rapport.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

JACKMAN. Evinces the charisma and masculine grace of Cary Grant.

The jaunty Johansson isn't one of Hollywood's best young actresses for nothing—she matches Allen's manic energy with her luminous beauty and wily feminine ardor, and synergizes Jackman's deceptively leisurely portrayal with contrasting playfulness and nuanced passion.

Allen's humor and sensibility may sometimes be too Yankee American for the *Pinoy* moviegoer to understand, so the verbal gags occasionally feel archaic—but, it isn't everyday that we get the chance to indulge in the director's cerebral witticisms on the local screen.

Besides, it's been awhile since the heyday of Danny Zialcita's smart cinematic fusions of drama and comedy ("Nagalit ang Buwan sa Haba ng Gabi," "T-Bird at Ako"). So, catch the movie while you still can.

"Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?"

D: Luc Jacquet
S: Sharon Cuneta

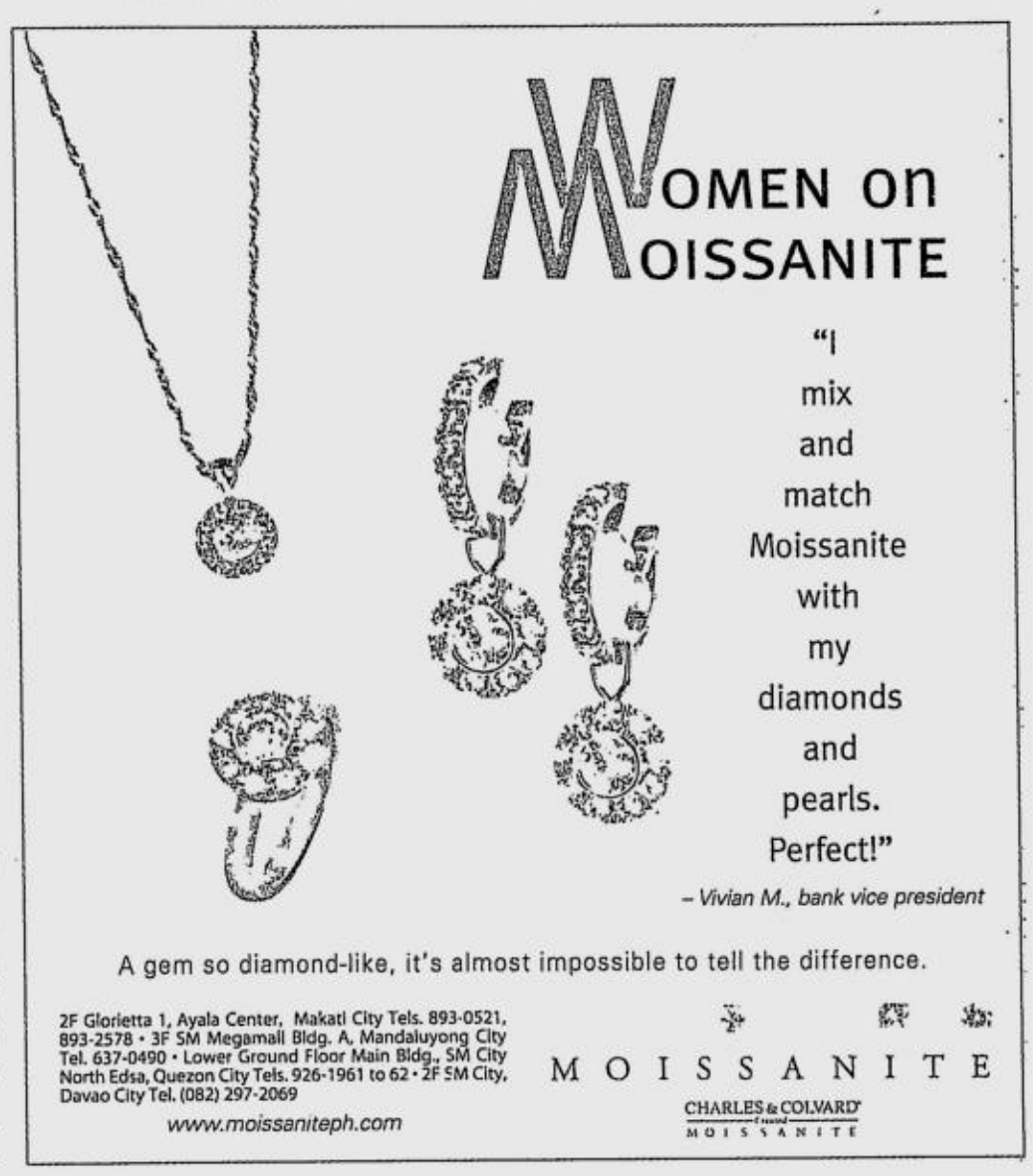
Sharon Cuneta nicely fills in the big shoes of Morgan Freeman as narrator of the Filipino version of Luc Jacquet's Oscar-winning documentary, "March of the Penguins," which chronicles the arduous journey Emperor penguins take to breed in the frozen, dark valleys of Antarctica.

The highest temperature in this arctic wasteland is 58 degrees below zero, but Jacquet astutely chronicles the warm relationship among these flightless, winged creatures with love and remarkable reverence.

To make the local version more accessible to local audiences, Chris Martinez and Eugene Evasco have come up with a more animated translation of the original narration that makes full use of the Megastar's good nature.

Freeman's voice fills the scenic panorama with a version that teems with wisdom and wistful wonder, while Sharon's interpretation is more intimate and exudes story-book earnestness.

In the ethereal vastness of Antarctica, Jacquet captures the penguins' disciplined culture, their strict adherence to monogamous "love," and their unstinting devotion to family—something that their human counterparts can learn from!



YAMAMOTO. "Write with your heart."

Yamamoto pitches for 'Maxi' rerun

By Rica Arevalo

MICHIKO YAMAMOTO HAS written only two screenplays: "Magnifico" and "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." Yet, both films have been honored with numerous awards in film festivals abroad. Thanks in part to her scripts, the world now knows that contemporary Philippine Cinema is alive!

She seldom gives interviews. She usually stays at home during awards nights. She'd rather read a book by herself in a coffee shop than mingle with the crowd.

She shares: "I find my greatest fulfillment in the audience's reactions, especially when it is touched by my stories. It makes you realize just how powerful writing is."

More personal

Mitch juggles her time writing for film and television. She adds: "I knew I had to make a compromise, so I accepted TV work to support my love for film. On TV, I love the creative team I work with—there's so much fun brainstorming stories and ideas. Everybody contributes to the concept, characters, and the script itself. Film is a lonelier and more personal process—but, I like it better."

What are her new projects? She cautiously answers: "I don't really plan, *kasi nawawala ang* excitement. I'm playing around with several ideas, but I have yet to decide which ones deserve to be told. There's no rush."

Her tips to aspiring writers: Write with your heart. Be humble. Always think of your audience as intelligent viewers.

Yamamoto and her scriptwriter-friends put up Ufo Pictures at a time when major film companies were not "buying" their stories.

She explains: "Film companies were afraid to risk money on our stories. So, we put up a company that would produce our scripts. As producers, we control everything, we can do what we want—and we have a say in the final cut."

NATHAN Lopez plays title role in "Maxi."

On Sept. 20, Unitel Pictures is set to re-release the remastered copy of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," the country's official entry to the Oscars next year.

Version

Michiko shares: "This version is much better than the one shown last year. Unitel thinks there's still an audience for 'Maxi.' After the awards it won in international film festivals, the production deserves to be seen again—and again!"

Mind. . .

From page F6

nevertheless a searing study into the tortured mind of its protagonist. We have to note, however, that, despite fresh perspectives shown in many digital productions these days, we are "disturbed" by their picture quality, which affects suspension of disbelief.

Bad visual clarity can become discombobulating to a moviegoer if he doesn't know or understand what he's seeing on the big screen—and something *has* to be done!

If we continue to see poor visual quality in digital pictures, we can't say we look forward to their being the cinematic medium of the future!

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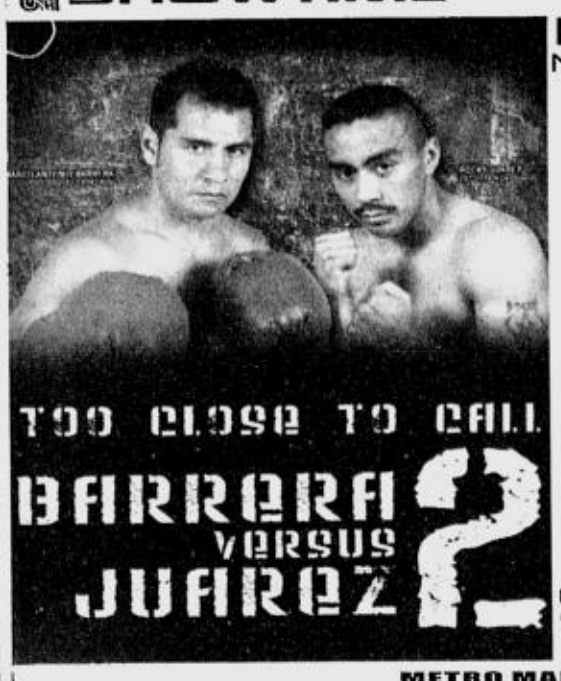

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8 CRANK
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10 BINIBINING K
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 SCOOP

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10 ETERNITY
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12 STAY ALIVE

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3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 BINIBINING K
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
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8 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
9 ETERNITY
10 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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2 WICKER MAN
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4 BINIBINING K
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

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2 SCOOP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
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5 WICKER MAN
6 ETERNITY
7 BINIBINING K
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

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2 SCOOP
3 WICKER MAN
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
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10 ETERNITY
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

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3 ETERNITY
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

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3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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2 BINIBINING K
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2 STORMBREAKER
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4 MONSTER HOUSE

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3 CRANK
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5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

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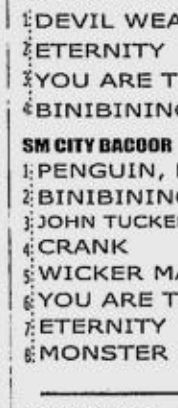

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Top luminaries line up new starrers

By Nestor U. Torre

THE SHOW BIZ TRUISM, "YOU'RE ONLY AS good as your last movie" continues to haunt even top stars, who read scores of scripts each month, looking for the next potential hit to keep their stellar careers aloft.

Comedy prince Ben Stiller believes that he has a sleeper hit in his new starrer, "A Night at the Museum." In the comedy production, he plays a security guard at the Museum of Natural History who accidentally lets loose an ancient curse that causes the animals and insects on display to come to life and wreak havoc!

Investment banker

Russell Crowe stars in "A Good Year." He portrays an investment banker who inherits a vineyard. When he moves from London, England to Provence, France to tend the vineyard he inherited from his late uncle, he encounters a beautiful woman from California who also lays claim to the property.

Sylvester Stallone is back for one more round in "Rocky Balboa," the sixth installment of the blockbuster "Rocky" films. In the movie, former heavyweight champion Balboa (Stallone) steps out of retirement decades after his initial victory.

When a computer-simulated boxing match declares Balboa the victor over current champion Mason "The Line" Dixon, Balboa's passion and spirit are reignited. But, when his desire to fight in small, regional competitions is nixed by promoters calling for a rematch of the cyber-fight, Balboa must weigh the mental and physical risks of a high-profile exhibition match against his need to be in the ring.

Journey

"The Fountain" stars Hugh Jackman and Rachel Weisz in an epic story about one man's thousand-year struggle to save the woman he loves. His journey begins in 16th-century Spain, where he commences his search for the "Tree of Life."

Now, as modern-day Tommy Creo, he desperately struggles to find a cure for the cancer that is killing his beloved wife, Isabel. Then, traveling through deep space as a 26-century astronaut, Tom begins to grasp the mysteries of life that have consumed him for so long.

"Deck the Halls," starring Matthew Broderick and Danny DeVito, is a comedy for the holidays about two neighbors in a small New England town who wage "war" against each other when one of them decides to decorate his house with so many Christmas lights that they are visible from space.

The neighborhood is turned upside down as the families try to discover the true meaning of Christmas.

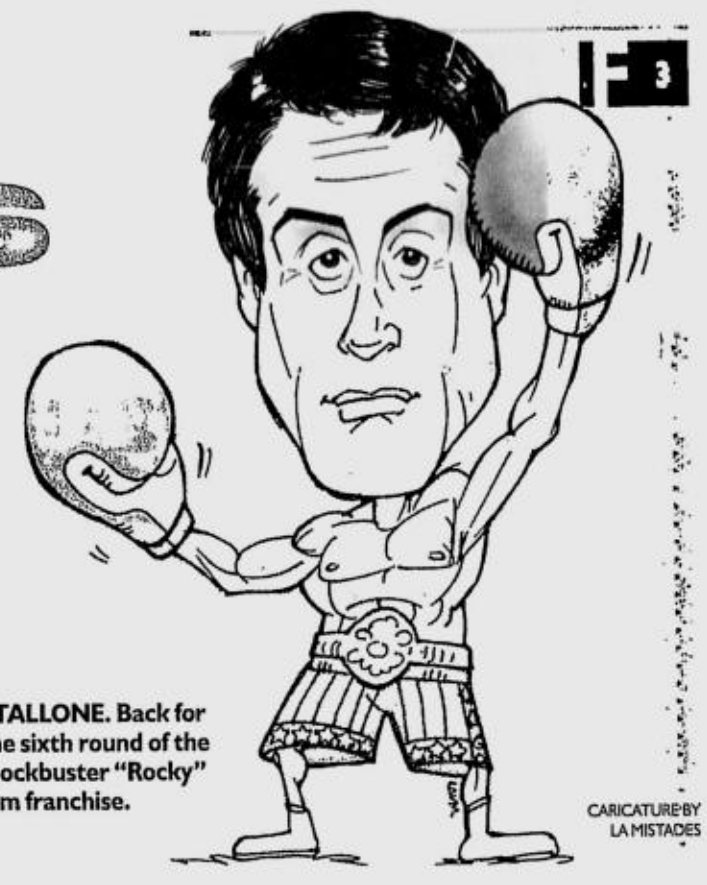
As for Greg Kinnear, Toni Collette and Steve Carrell, their new-co-starrer is "Little Miss Sunshine." The film traces the Hoover family's trip from Albuquerque to the Little Miss Sunshine pageant in Redondo Beach, California to fulfill the deepest wish of seven-year-old Olive—an ordinary little girl with big dreams.

On their journey, the Hoovers learn to trust each other, no matter what the challenge. A runaway hit at the Sundance Film Festival, the film rings a bell for anyone who's ever been awestruck at how his muddled family seem to make it through the roughest times.

Certified hits

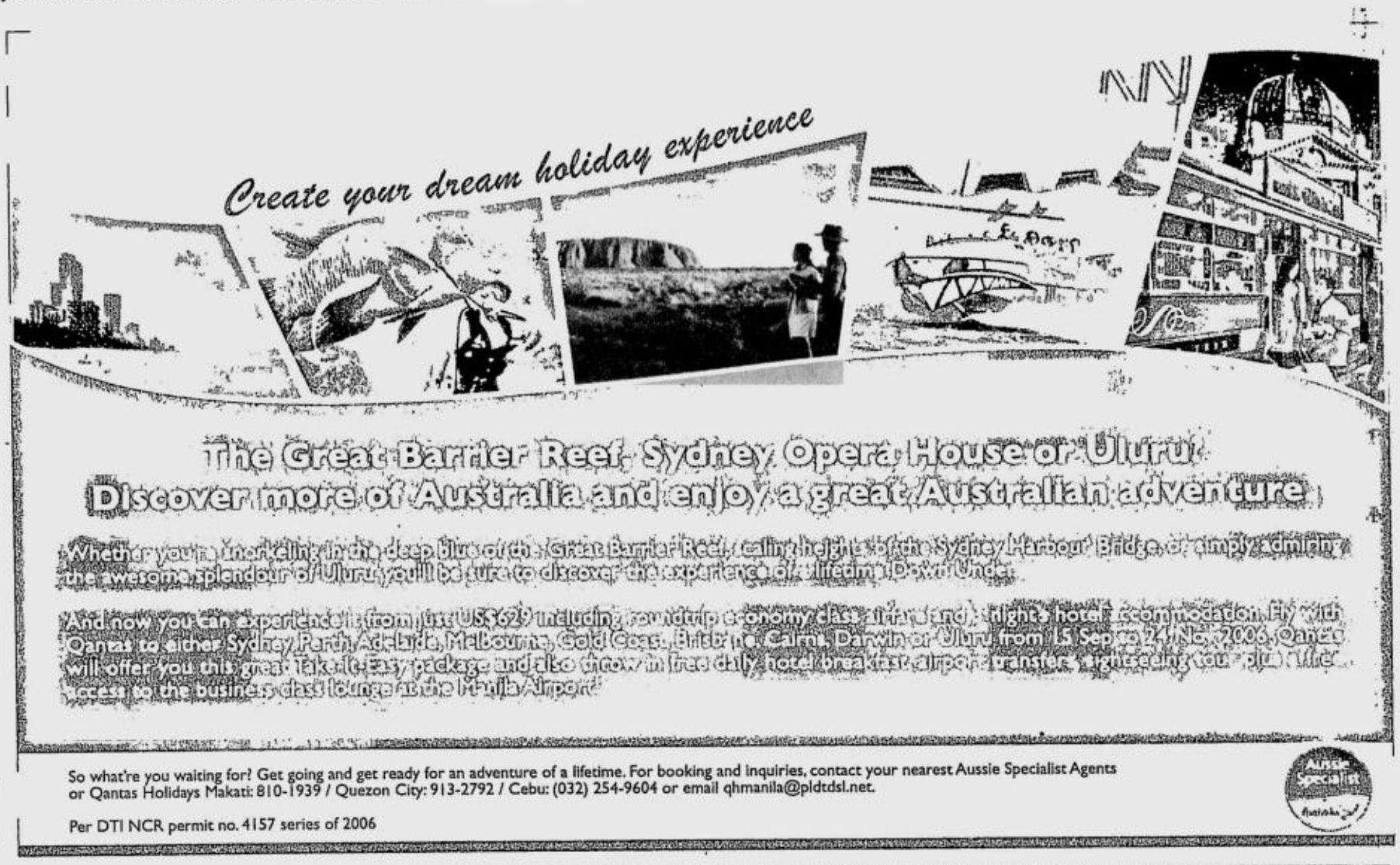
Each film year, literally hundreds of movies are produced, but only around 15 manage to make more than $100 million at the box office, thus ending up as certified hits.

By that yardstick, only one or two of the films profiled here will really click with moviegoers. Which ones will the viewers bless?



STALLONE. Back for the sixth round of the blockbuster "Rocky" film franchise.

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES



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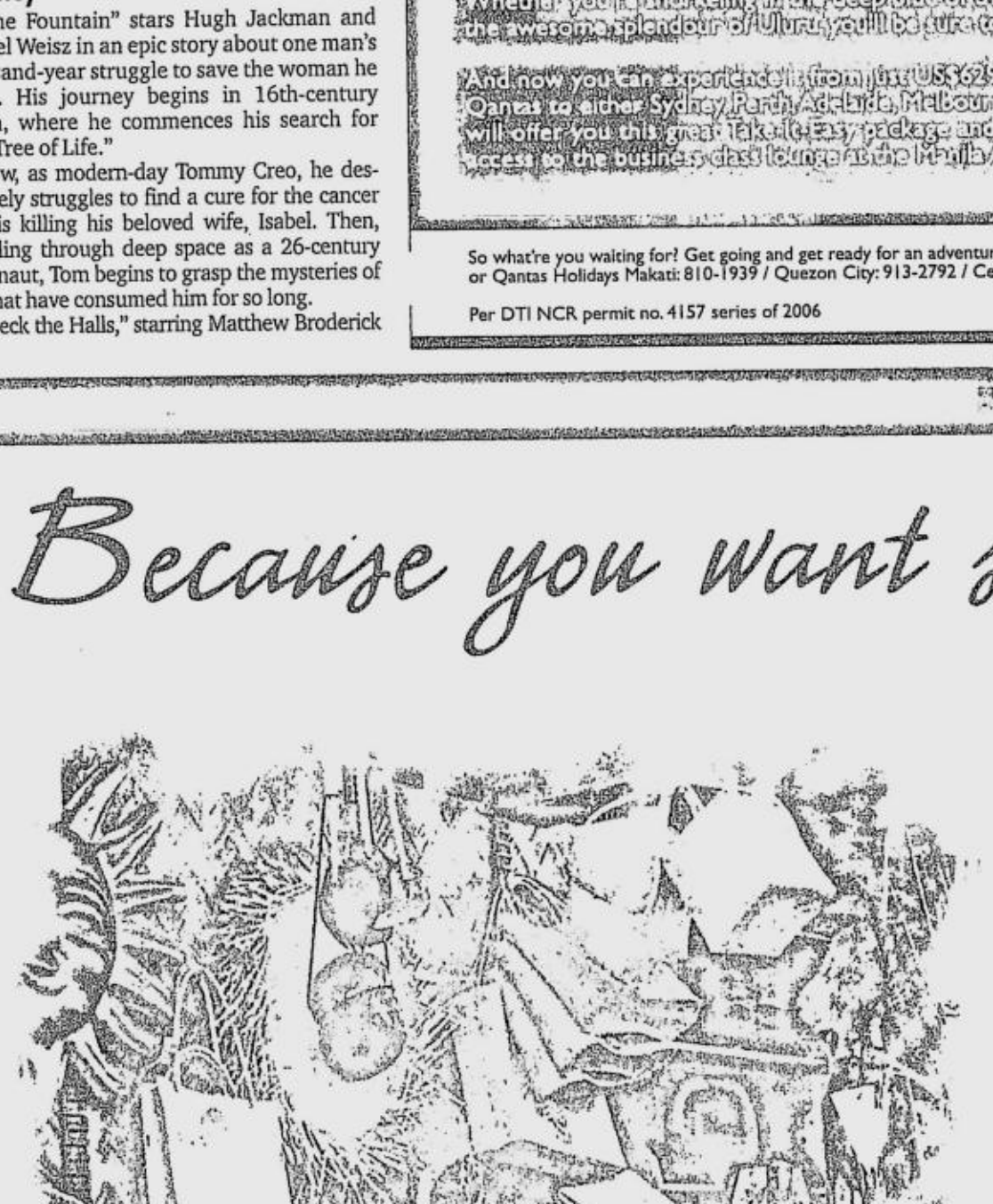

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Katie Couric clicks as solo news anchor

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN KATIE COURIC DECIDED TO LEAVE the "Today" show after years of co-hosting it with Matt Lauer, some people wondered if she had made the wrong decision. After all, she was the reigning "queen" of morning TV, an enviable position that many other female talents coveted.

CARIATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

COURIC. Highest ratings in eight years.

Bigger challenge

But, Couric felt it was time to move on and tackle an even bigger challenge that would further stretch her limits. And, after years of sleeping and waking up early, she longed to finally get a good night's sleep!

Her way out of her sleep-deprived existence came in the form of an offer from CBS for her to anchor its evening news program—the first time that the solo slot was being offered to a female broadcast journalist. How could she refuse the plum assignment?

But, when Couric announced her decision to anchor CBS' news program, she was criticized by some industry people who believed that she wasn't "really" a broadcast journalist. Coming as she did from a morning talk-variety show, they felt that she didn't possess the depth and perspicacity that a news anchor should have.

Well, all that has been rendered moot and academic, because Couric has just started anchoring CBS' evening news program, and the viewing public's reception has been overwhelmingly supportive.

In fact, the show's initial telecast earlier this month was viewed by 13 million viewers, and was the most-viewed program that night.

Couric also got high marks for her news-anchoring skills, effectively countering "advanced" criticisms that she wouldn't be up to the demands of her new job.

Great news

So, it looks like Katie is in her news anchor seat at CBS to stay. That's great news for the network because, with its new anchor, the program has been garnering its highest ratings in eight years.

It's estimated that some 20 million Americans watch newscasts nightly, so the CBS program's viewership of 13 million puts it in a dominant position in the highly competitive field of news and public affairs.

The financial rewards of this leadership position are expected to be great. The news field generates some $400 million worth of commercial placements annually, so CBS now stands to reap quite a substantial slice of that delicious monetary pie.

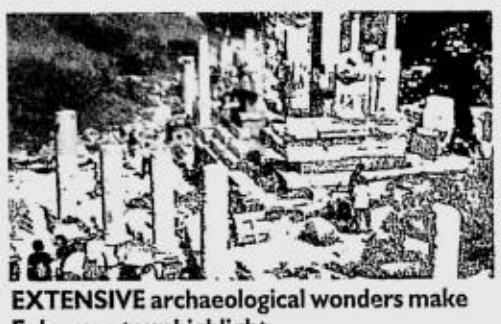
CBS' "foolhardy" decision to pin its newscasting hopes on Couric has paid off—big-time!

For her part, Meredith Vieira, Couric's replacement on the "Today" show, started cohosting the program with Matt Lauer last Thursday. The good news is that she didn't suffer in comparison to the show's previous female host, so things are looking up.

Viewership

As for Rosie O'Donnell, Vieira's own replacement on "The View," she's started working on the program and is also doing well. In fact, after she joined the program, its viewership increased by 50 percent!

So, for Couric, Vieira and O'Donnell, their game of TV musical chairs is paying off beautifully in terms of renewed viewer interest and excitement. Now, if only we can get to watch "The CBS Evening News" and "The View" on cable TV . . .



EXTENSIVE archaeological wonders make Ephesus a tour highlight.

Turkey reveals its delights in October tour

JOURNEY'S OF FAITH'S October tour of Turkey reveals the exotic and storied country's unique delights, and also enables pilgrims to follow the footsteps of St. Paul. The tour group leaves Manila on Oct. 22 for Istanbul, then heads for Adana, and then Antioch—where Paul and Barnabas set out on their first missionary journey.

Next, visit Paul's birthplace in Tarsus, and continue on to Cappadocia, enroute visiting Eski Gumus Monastery and Kaymakli, the underground city carved from soft volcanic rock by early Christians. Side trips to carpet and pottery factories and wineries have also been lined up.

TURKEY/ F7

HUDSON. Viciously attacked by ravenous wild dogs in Craven's new shocker.

Battle for survival in 'The Breed'

VIEWERS COME FACE TO face with ravenous wild dogs in Wes Craven's new shocker, "The Breed." The thriller tells the dark tale of two brothers (played by Eric Lively and Oliver Hudson) who are forced to match wits with mysterious and hostile residents when they go to a "deserted" island for a weekend party.

MONTAGE

After the discovery of a mauled and shredded body, the brothers' group realizes it is not alone. The race against time becomes an intense battle for survival between man and beast, and only one group of combatants will survive.

One of the most daunting animal stunts in the movie has Hudson attempting to swim out to a seaplane—only to find that the dogs are sitting on the wing. Worse, once they see him in the water, the dogs attack him!

For the shots of dogs being speared, animatronic puppets were used. The canine "standins" are so realistic that they can't be distinguished from the real animals. "The Breed" opens on Sept. 20.

Nine Emmys for 'Elizabeth I'

The Hallmark Channel's period drama, "Elizabeth I," bagged nine trophies at the recent Emmy Awards, including outstanding miniseries, director (Tom Hopper), actress (Helen Mirren) and supporting actor (Jeremy Irons).

Premiering in the Philippines at 9 p.m., on Sept. 24, the acclaimed show explores the British monarch's personal and public conflicts and challenges, highlighted by two tempestuous relationships in the course of her 45-year reign.

Mirren dramatically vivifies England's "virgin queen" as a woman who finds herself at the forefront of a powerful nation, and tries to balance her responsibility to the state with

BATTLE/ F5

MIRREN. Dramatically vivifies England's "virgin queen."

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Ressa traces roots of terrorism in chilling docu

RESSA. Depth of experience.

By Noelani Torre

CONCISE, COMprehensive and altogether chilling, ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs chief Maria Ressa's documentary, "9/11: The Philippine Connection," brings to light the significant role our country is playing in global terrorism.

Drawing from classified documents, interviews, and her own wide-ranging research in the course of a distinguished career that saw her become CNN's premier investigative journalist in Indonesia, Ressa traces the roots of the 9/11 and post-9/11 attacks to terrorist cells and individuals who, at one time or another, made the Philippines their base of operations.

Most of the points she makes in this two-hour-long documentary are the same as the ones emphasized in her book, "Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia" (Simon & Schuster, 2003).

Disquieting

Though disquieting enough already, reading about how al-Qaeda has used our region to spread its brand of radical Islam isn't quite as unsettling as seeing it all chronicled in color and sound.

Also, the documentary focuses particularly on the Philippines, and the threat to our security reveals itself to be very real, indeed.

Ressa starts off by linking the most recent terrorist threat—the foiling of a plot to blow up US-bound planes with liquid explosives in the UK—to a much earlier failed attempt that occurred here.

According to one of her sources, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, "The London bombing attempt is similar to the incident in 1995. The blueprint of the entire operation is the same."

To those who've forgotten about the 1995 plot, recall that it was in that year when Pope John Paul II visited the country. The plot to assassinate him was accidentally discovered when police officers investigated a fire that had broken out at the Josefa Apartments on Quirino Ave.

The authorities discovered pipe bombs, chemicals, detonators—and arrested a Pakistani, Abdul Hakim Murad, who was "perhaps the first pilot recruited by al-Qaeda."

It is a riveting opening, and as the rest of the details are told—how they had initially planned to use airplanes, the discovery of Operation Bojinka (which involved using liquid explosives in planes), the first mention of a 9/11 plot—it gets more engrossing and, of course, disturbing.

Alienating policies

The Philippines, it is soon revealed, is a terrorist haven, and even moderate Muslims in the country find themselves sympathetic to Bin Laden when faced with the US's alienating policies.

Detailed yet succinctly presented, the documentary is clearly drawn and credible. There is perhaps no other journalist in the country with Ressa's depth of experience and knowledge of the Southeast Asian region.

Though objective when needed, she nevertheless does not hide her opinions when they need to be voiced-out—and hers is a voice we would be wise to heed!

Battle for survival in 'The Breed'

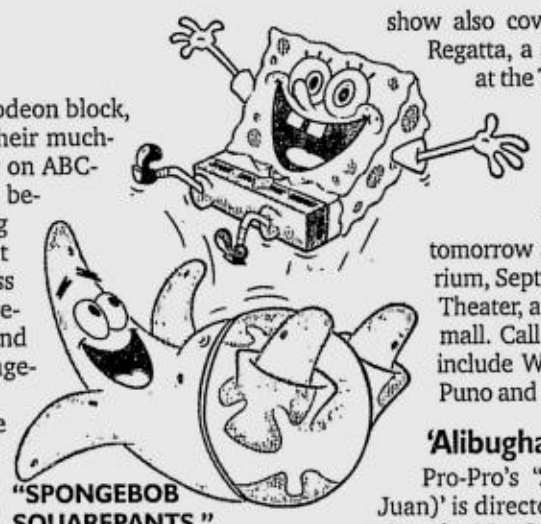
From page F4

her need for love.

Nicktoons on ABC-5

This month on the Nickelodeon block, *Pinoy* Nicksters can watch their much-loved Nicktoons twice a day on ABC-5, and win cool souvenirs besides. While viewing "SpongeBob SquarePants" at 6 a.m. and 8 a.m., M-S, guess the character that will be revealed under the jellyfish, and get a chance to win a SpongeBob notepad.

Also watch Nicktoons like "Dora the Explorer," "Blue's Clues," "Chalkzone," "CatDog" and "Hey Arnold" 6 a.m.—9 a.m. M-S, and 2:30 p.m- 4:30 p.m. M-F and experience the best in delightful entertainment!



"SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS." Shown twice a day.

'GamePlan'

At 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, Studio 23's "GamePlan" goes to the Manila Yacht Club and spends the afternoon with members of Sailability Philippines. The show also covers the Women's Helm Regatta, a sailing competition held at the Taal Lake Yacht Club.

'Ibong Adarna'

Performances of Gantimpala's staging of "Ibong Adarna" are set tomorrow at the Rizal Park auditorium, Sept. 22-24, 29-30 at the AFP Theater, and Oct. 6-8 at SM Southmall. Call 899-5745. Lead players include Wowie de Guzman, Tosca Puno and Noel Escondo.

'Alibugha'

Pro-Pro's "Alibugha (sa Bayan ni Juan)' is directed by Roni Bertubin and written by Mar O. Reyes, with music composed by Robert Delgado. The Filipino musical based on the biblical story of the Prodigal Son will be performed at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sept. 21 at the Philamlife Auditorium. Call 564-8462.

Mall shows

Today at 5 p.m., Imago's "Blush" album tour hits SM Marilao. Tomorrow at 5 p.m., Jed Madela promotes his "Songs Rediscovered" album at SM North Edsa.

Winston Wings Tour

Bamboo performs at Gweilo's Libis tonight on the latest leg of the Winston Wings Tour. The opening act is the Pin-Up Girls.

Bee Gees at the Big Dome

Sing-along with the Bee Gees (featuring Robin Gibb on lead vocals) when the popular group performs hit songs like "How Deep is Your Love?," "Stayin' Alive," "First of May," "More Than a Woman," "Emotions" and "To Love Somebody" at the Araneta Coliseum on the Manila leg of its World Tour 2006 on Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. Call Ticketnet at 374-2222 or 911-5555.

Movies on TV

On HBO, tomorrow at 5:45 p.m., "Connie and Carla." tomorrow at noon, "The Terminal." 9:50 p.m., "Shrek 2." Sept. 18 at 8:30 a.m., "Lackawanna Blues." 2 p.m., "Fahrenheit 9/11." Sept. 19 at 10 a.m., "Out of Africa." 4:40 p.m., "All the President's Men." Sept. 20 at 10:15 a.m., "A Thousand Acres." Sept. 21 at 2 p.m., "Homeland Security." 3:45 p.m., "Radio."

On Cinemax, Sept. 16 at 3:55 p.m., "Batman." Sept. 17 at 3:45 p.m., "The Blues Brothers." Sept. 18 at 1 p.m., "Arabesque." Sept. 19 at 6 a.m., "From Here to Eternity." Sept. 20 at 9:30 p.m., "Lone Star." Sept. 21 at 6:30 a.m., "The Wild Bunch." 3:40 p.m., "Marnie." Sept. 22 at 12:10 p.m., "House of Secrets." 3:15 p.m., "Boeing Boeing."

DE GUZMAN, Puno and other lead players of "Ibong Adarna," which will be performed at Rizal Park tomorrow.

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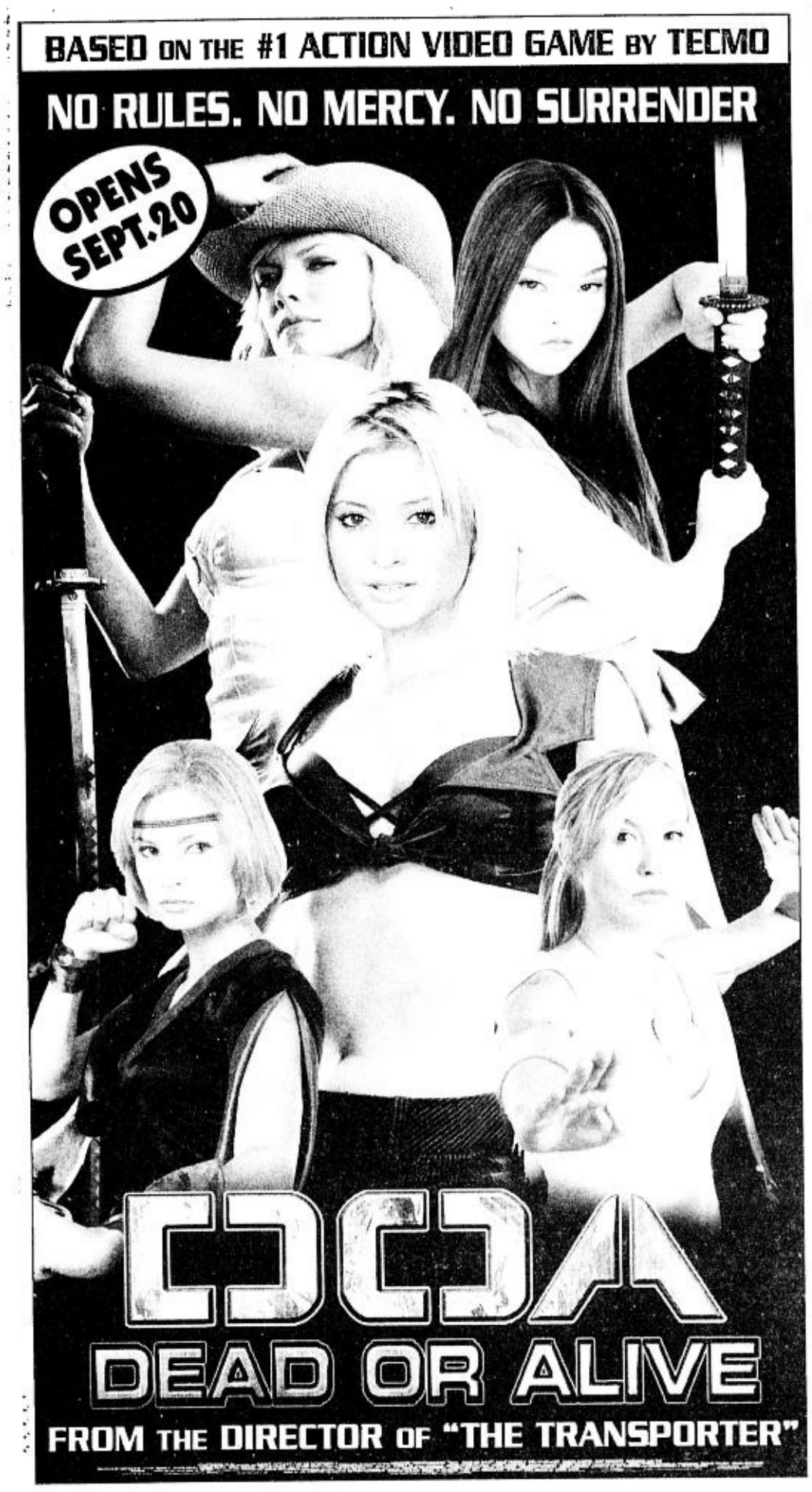

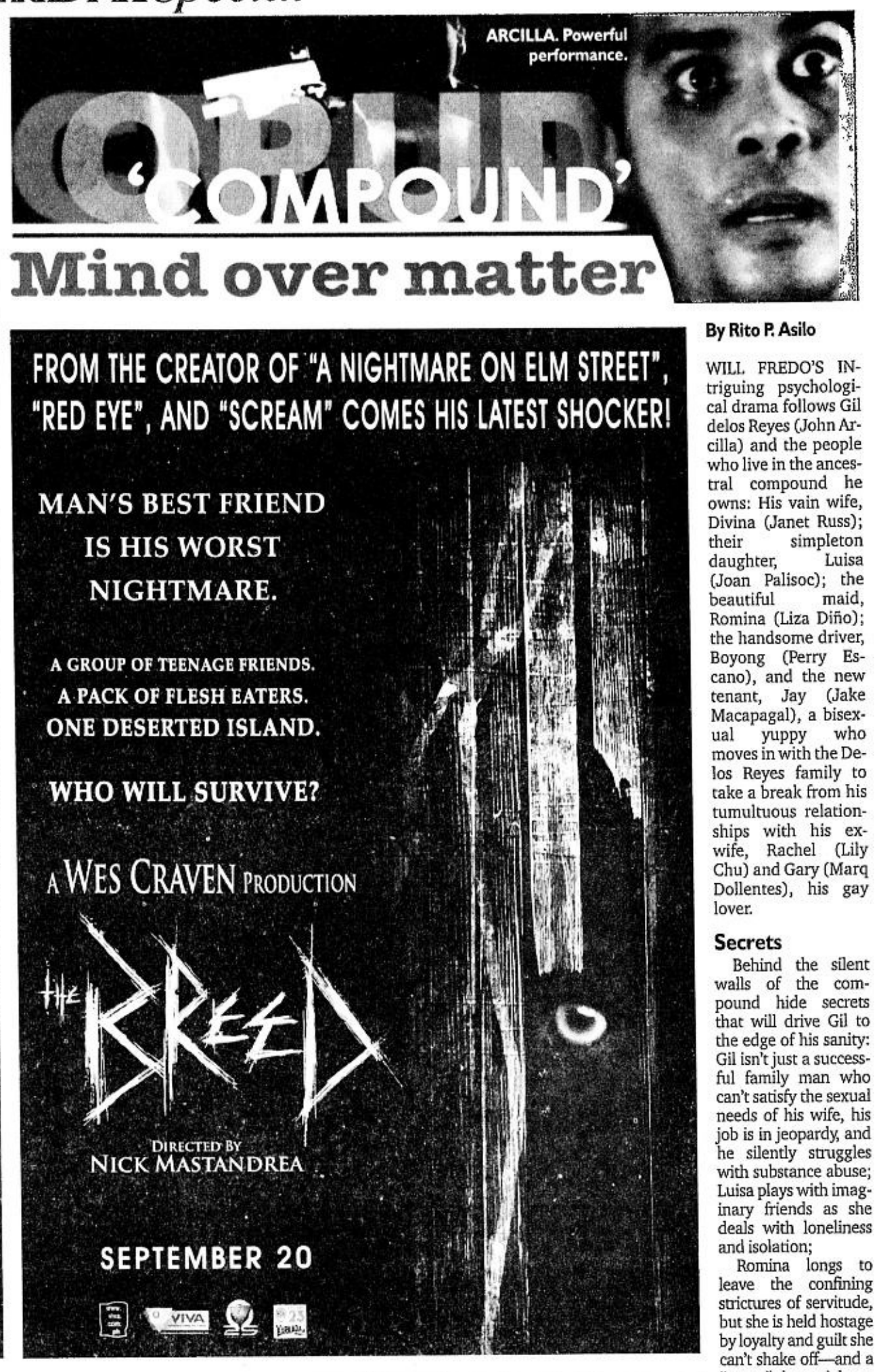

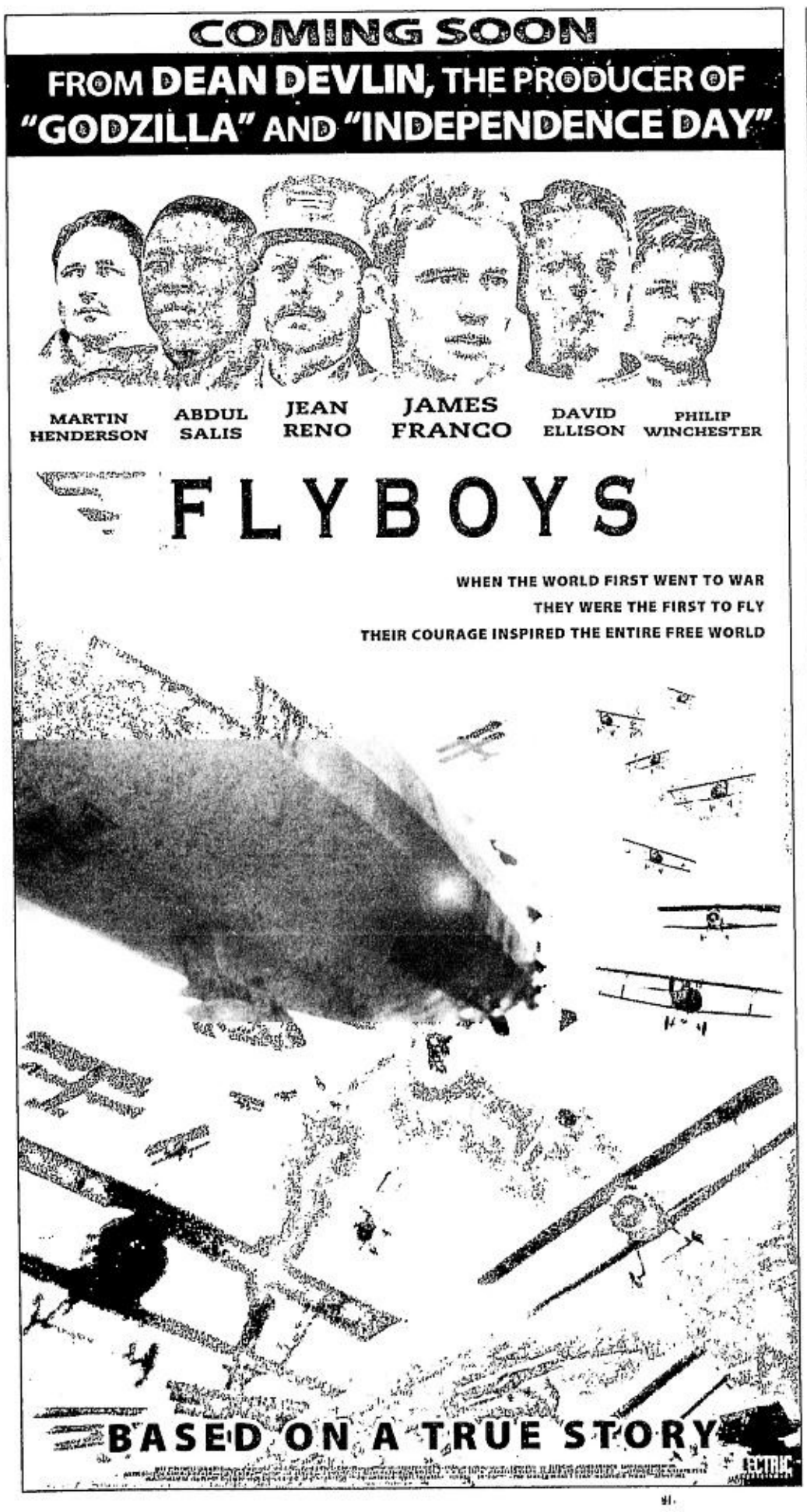

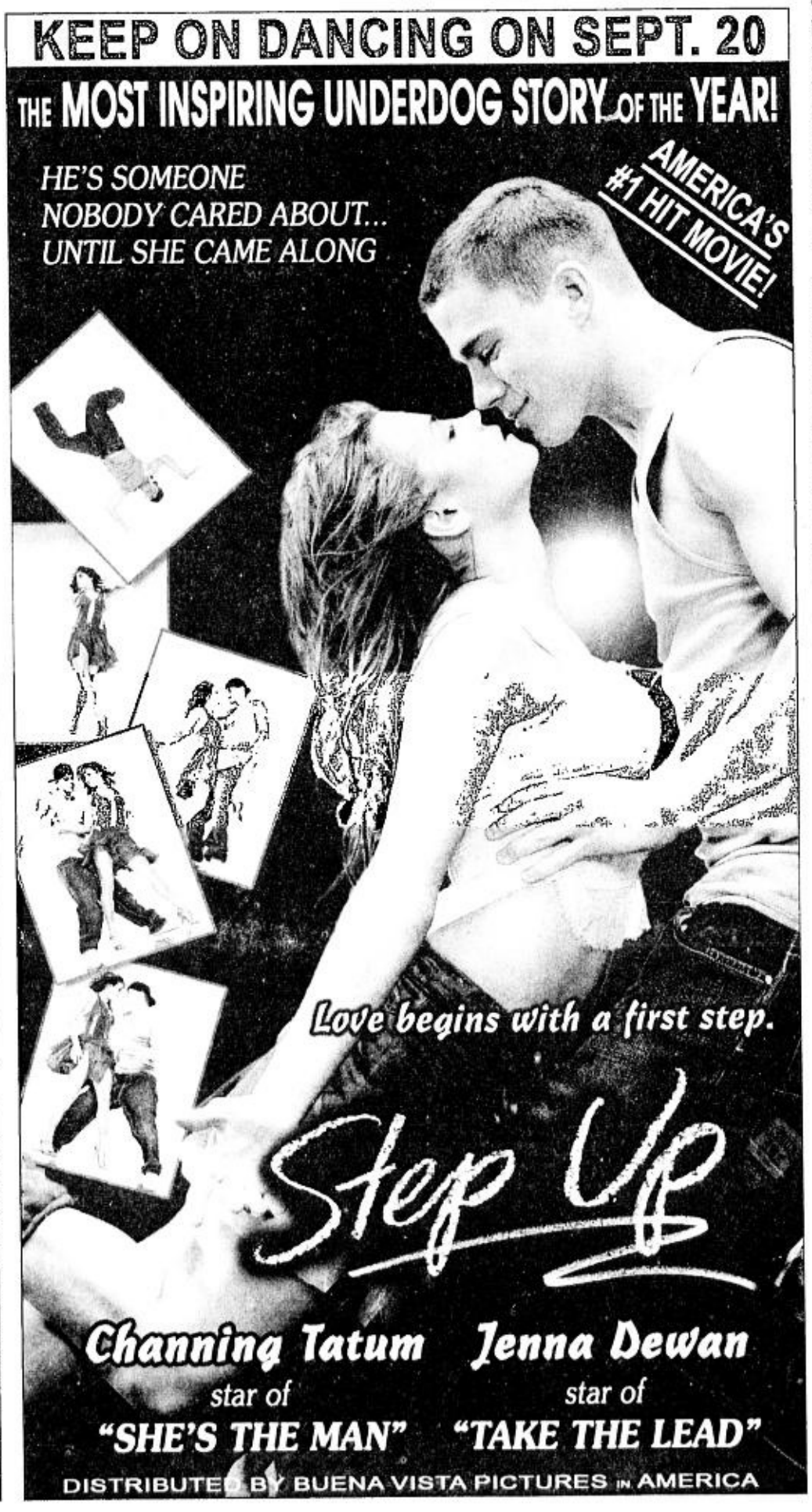

'COMPOUND' Mind over matter

By Rito P. Asilo

WILL FREDO'S INtriguing psychological drama follows Gil delos Reyes (John Arcilla) and the people who live in the ancestral compound he owns: His vain wife, Divina (Janet Russ); their simpleton daughter, Luisa (Joan Palisoc); the beautiful maid, Romina (Liza Diño); the handsome driver, Boyong (Perry Escano), and the new tenant, Jay (Jake Macapagal), a bisexual yuppy who moves in with the Delos Reyes family to take a break from his tumultuous relationships with his ex-wife, Rachel (Lily Chu) and Gary (Marq Dollentes), his gay lover.

Secrets

Behind the silent walls of the compound hide secrets that will drive Gil to the edge of his sanity: Gil isn't just a successful family man who can't satisfy the sexual needs of his wife, his job is in jeopardy, and he silently struggles with substance abuse; Luisa plays with imaginary friends as she deals with loneliness and isolation;

Romina longs to leave the confining strictures of servitude, but she is held hostage by loyalty and guilt she can't shake off—and a "secret" she can't leave behind. There's also the playful, sexually promiscuous Boyong (Perry Escaño), who wants a life with Romina in the province, but whose sexual needs sometimes overwhelm his priorities in life.

Issues

For his part, Jay joins the "domestic" fray with his own unresolved issues. He acts as the objective eye of the story. When he finally realizes what's going on—in the compound and inside Jay's head—he becomes a victim of his willingness to help and his need for acceptance.

Despite flawed production values, Fredo's engaging film takes shape courtesy of good performances turned in by his cast: Arcilla and Macapagal are passionate actors with contrasting acting styles, which work for their respective characters, but Diño and Chu come up with the most informed performances in the ensemble—particularly the former, who should get more roles in mainstream features.

Miscast

Despite a hearty performance, Palisoc is miscast and looks too old for her role. On the other hand, Russ is hampered by inconsistent characterization.

Despite an obvious struggle with some English lines, Arcilla delivers a powerful performance—although his downward spiral into mental illness is too abrupt to be truly affecting, and should have been shaped with better directorial guidance.

Fredo's indie is

MIND/F2

Funny premise draws few laughs

By Noelani Torre

OWEN WILSON HAS MOVED ON from crashing weddings to crashing on a newlyweds' couch in the comedy, "You, Me and Dupree." He plays Randolph Dupree, a sunny-natured bum who loses his job after going off to Hawaii to attend his best friend's (Matt Dillon) wedding.

After getting kicked out of his apartment, his buddy offers his—and new wife, Molly's (Kate Hudson)—couch. Then, you can more or less guess how the rest of the story will go.

HUDSON, WILSON AND DILLON. What do you do when your husband's best buddy truns out to be the houseguest from hell?

Inappropriate behavior

There have been movies and sitcom episodes about unwanted houseguests, and "You, Me and Dupree" sticks close to the formula. Dupree, of course, indulges in inappropriate behavior. He sleeps naked on the couch, changes messages on their answering machine, clogs the toilet—and, while trying to set a romantic atmosphere with Mormon librarian, Mandy, uses butter and candles and nearly burns the house down! In short, he is the houseguest from hell!

You'd think that the film's dilemma would be how to get rid of Dupree, but the movie changes gears halfway through when a repentant Dupree suddenly becomes the model houseguest.

Now, the problem becomes Carl—who works too hard, neglects his wife, and is jealous of her growing closeness to Dupree. He also happens to be burdened with a mean boss (Michael Douglas), who happens to be his father-in-law!

Wilson, who's been catapulted to stardom on the strength of his wigged-out, surfer-boy brand of comedy, essentially rehashes roles he's played before. He's quite effective—he has great comic timing, and his characters, no matter how earnest and stumbling, always seem to know what's going on—but, it's getting a bit ragged around the edges. That wouldn't be a problem if his co-actors actually complemented him, as Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn do. Unfortunately, Dillon and Hudson, though competent, do not.

Repressive

Dillon plays the straight, workaholic guy, and Hudson the cute schoolteacher who sometimes sounds more like a nagging mother than a blushing bride.

When she interrupts a football game party that Dupree impulsively holds in her living room, you're tempted to side more with the guys. Can you imagine Kate Hudson as repressive? It's practically criminal.

Though the premise sounds potentially funny, the movie has few laugh-out-loud moments. Alas, good comedies can't survive on a few hearty chuckles alone.

Guardians...

From page F8

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Turkey reveals its delights . . .

From page F4

At Konya, visit the Museum of Meulana, founder of the sect of the Whirling Dervishes. At Pamukkale, view the ancient Hierapolis with the famous necropol and Cotton Castles. At Meryam Ana, Holy Mass will be celebrated at the Virgin Mary's House.

Highlight

A major highlight of the tour is the ancient city of Ephesus, one of the biggest and richest excavation sites in the world. Also visit the Basilica of St, John the Evangelist, Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia Church and the famous shopping mecca, the Covered Bazaar, with its 4,000 shops!

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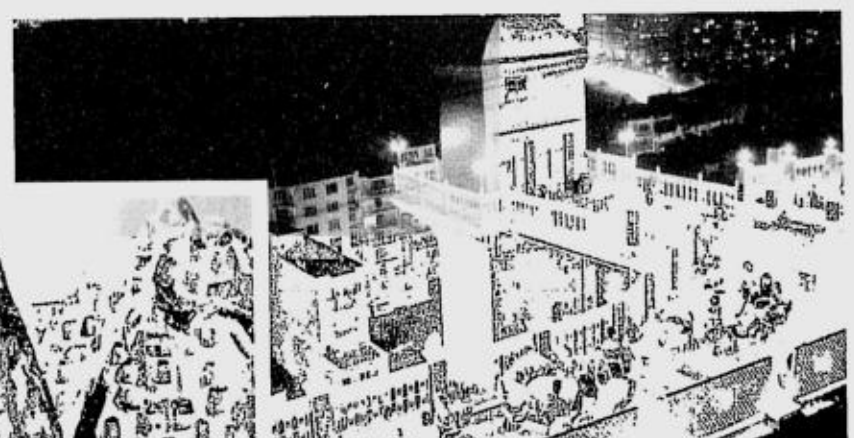
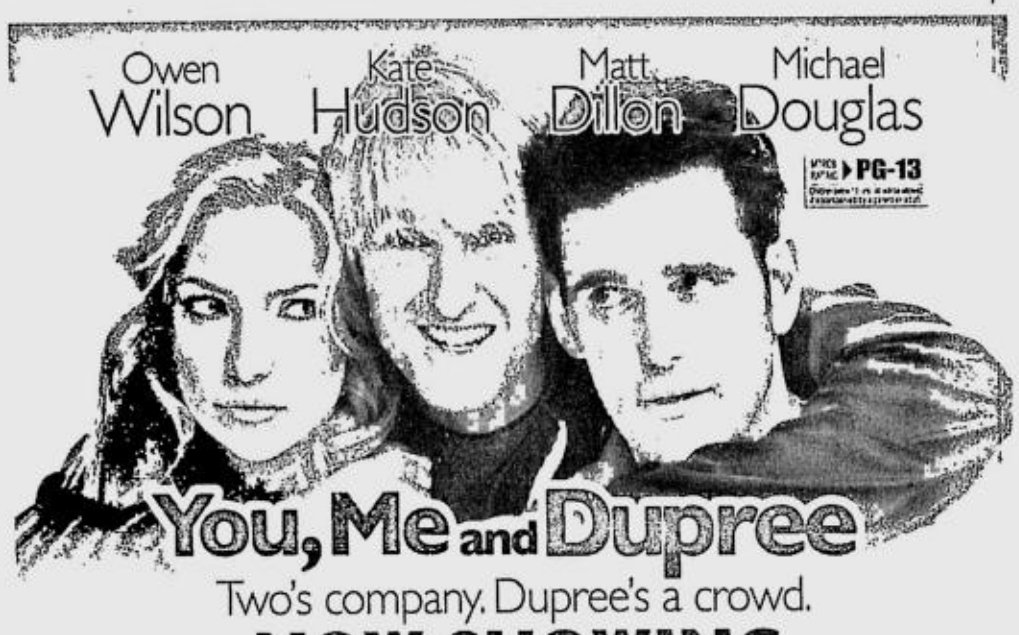


SCENIC wonders: Uchisar in Cappadocia (left) and Asansor in Izmir.



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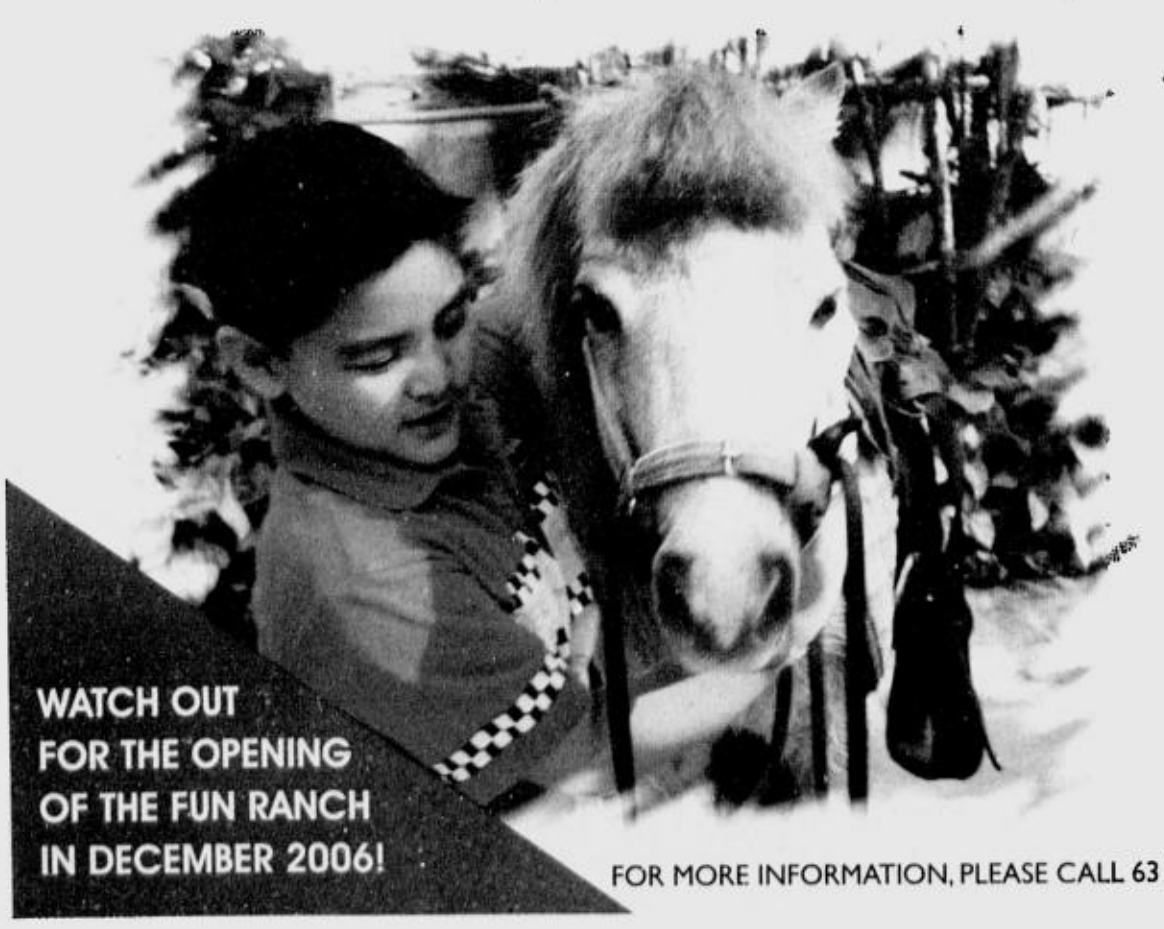

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
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Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 THE WICKER MAN
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE / YOU ME & DUPREE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
5 SCOOP
6 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 CRANK
8 BINIBINING K
9 ETERNITY / PENGUIN-PENGUIN
10 YOU ARE THE ONE

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Rita, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 BINIBINING K
3 JDN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 BINIBINING K
4 SCOOP
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 WOLF CREEK
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 BINIBINING K
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 THE WICKER MAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEAR PRADA
4 BINIBINING K

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNATY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
MONSTER HOUSE
3 SCOOP
4 CRANK

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(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 STAY ALIVE
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 LITTLE MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TAMARA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BINIBINING K
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 THE NUN
2 STORMBREAKER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 REPPER LETTER FROM HELL
2 NIGHT JOB
3 BABY DOLL
4 KUBRADOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 NAIIBANG HAYOP
3 BINIBINING K
4 WILD SIDE
5 MIAMI VICE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 MIAMI VICE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 LITTLE MAN
2 KRISELDA

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CINEMA 4 SCOOP 11:00 , 1:15 , 3:35 5:55 , 8:15 , 10:35 PG13
CINEMA 5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 10:40 , 1:00 , 3:20 5:40 , 8:00 , 10:25 PG-13
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EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
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Guardians of environment

IN CONTRAST TO THE "LASON AWARDS" given to environmental violators, Manila Water—under the leadership of board chairman Fernando Zobel and president Antonino T. Aquino—presented plaques of recognition to "Guardians of the Environment" recently.

Resources

Present at the awards ceremony held at the Ayala Museum were Environment Undersecretary Frankie Bravo, NWRB executive director Dondi Alikpala and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay. They extolled the special partnership between the public and private sectors to protect our groundwater resources.

BINAY, ZOBEL AND AQUINO. Special partnership.

Given awards for using 100 percent surface water supply were Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines-Diliman, SM North Edsa, Veteran's Memorial Medical Center, Eastwood City, Nestlé Philippines Ice Cream and Chilled Dairy Division, AFP V. Luna General Hospital, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, La Salle Greenhills, Galleria Regency, The Medical City, Shangri-La Plaza, Ajionomoto Philippines, SM Megamall, United Laboratories, Greenfield Development Corp., URC-CFC Coffee Plant, Greenwoods Executive

GUARDIANS/ F7

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

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OPINION / A10

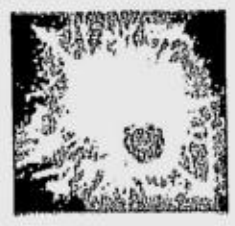
Isagani Cruz: The bland declaration that individual rights must yield to the demands of national security ignores the fact that individual rights are intended precisely to limit the authority of the State even if asserted on the ground of national security

ACROSS / A14

Vice Gov Recto goes on offensive, sues Sanchez for graft; accused mastermind of attack calls governor 'criminal'

TALK OF THE TOWN / A12

Docs provide the science on VCO: The miracle is in the chemistry



Pope sorry over speech, global Muslim protests

VATICAN—POPE BENEDICT TOLD MUSLIMS on Saturday he was sorry they had found his speech on Islam offensive, expressing his respect for their faith and hoping they would understand the "true sense" of his words.

"The Holy Father is very sorry that some passages of his speech may have sounded offensive to the sensibilities of Muslim believers," Vatican

POPE/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL[illegible] VIEWS
Sunday, September 17, 2006 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 281 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Tracking people not the forte of Senate agents

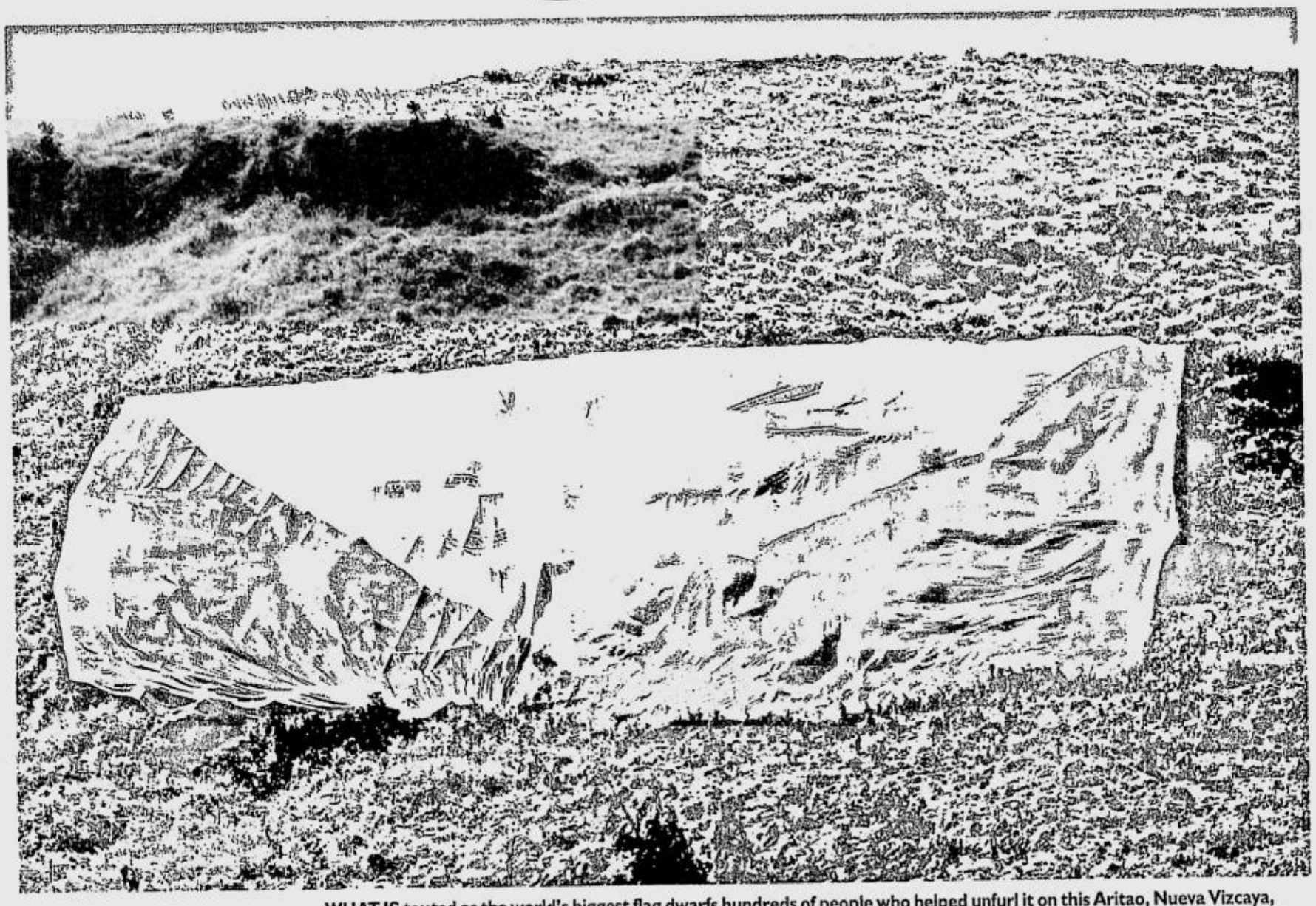
By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT SEEMS THEY ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE and yet the Senate security men can't find them. The chamber's sergeant at arms concedes the media are doing a better job.

"You in media are really good (at tracking down people)," retired Maj. Gen. Jose Baladajia said yesterday, explaining his men's seeming in-

TRACKING/ A9

'We'll fight to the end'



WHAT IS touted as the world's biggest flag dwarfs hundreds of people who helped unfurl it on this Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, hillside. The site on Mt. Inordinan was chosen because authorities wouldn't allow it to be unfurled on the grounds of the UP Diliman campus and there was no flag pole big enough to fly it. To the dismay of those who labored to make it, the flag tore in large sections.

LYN RILLON

'Nicole' says there will be no settlement of rape case

By Volt Contreras and Armand N. Nocum

THE FILIPINO WOMAN ACcusing four US Marines of rape stood firm yesterday against any settlement of the case and wondered whether the government was "really interested in getting justice" for her.

In a statement issued last night, the 22-year-old "Nicole" declared: "My fight will be until the very end." It was her second time this week to speak out over what she and her mother said was the "incompetence" displayed by the public prosecutors assigned by the Department of Justice to argue her case, particularly during the cross-examination of her alleged rapist, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

The two-page statement faxed to the INQUIRER was issued a day after Nicole's mother claimed that Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos, the chair of the public prosecution panel, "proposed" as early as July that the complainant enter into a settlement with the accused. (Reached by the INQUIRER in Biliran on Friday, De los Santos issued a vehement denial and described the claim as "blackmail.")

"I am very much interested in pursuing my case," Nicole said in the statement. "From the very beginning, my mind was set to pursue the case and not be influenced by other people, by any means."

She said she had called for the replacement of four of the five public prosecutors because she was "extremely disappointed" with the cross-examination of Smith by Nolibien Quiambao, the lone man on the team.

"It was obvious that the state prosecutor did not prepare for it. Even the judge questioned [him] if he was doing a cross-examination. I begged the senior state prosecutor to allow my private prosecutor (Evalyn Ursua) to cross-ex-

WE'LL/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

Disneyland, HK's youngest attraction, is a year old

LIFESTYLE / E2

'Little punk' gets the job

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Pinay achiever raises benchmark for nurses in Hawaii

SUNDAY BIZ / B4

Touch wood

LIFESTYLE / C1

World's biggest flag, world's biggest rip

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ARITAO, NUEVA VIZCAYA—THE DREAM TO clinch the record for the world's biggest flag ended up in shreds yesterday after strong winds tore apart the giant Philippine national flag as it was being unfurled in this mountain town.

Overcoming gusts and the heat of the noon sun, hundreds of residents and volunteers unveiled a Philippine tri-color that measured 200 by 100 meters and weighed 3.75 tons. *(See related story in Metro, Page A17.)*

It was about the size of almost four football fields or, to put a local perspective on it, it was big enough to cover two street blocks in Barangay Bone South here.

Each side of the white triangle was 100 meters long. The sun was 25 meters in diameter, its rays were 10 meters long and so were the stars.

Ten seamstresses, two artists and 40 volunteers used about 14,900 yards of cloth—enough to produce 10,000 jackets.

The organizers, PG Tower Ministries International, said they had hoped the feat would make it to the Guinness Book of Records for the largest flag. They wanted to break the 10-year-old world record held by the United States. The Stars and Stripes measured 77.7 meters by 153.9 meters and weighed 1,363 kg.

The unfurling of the Philippine super flag

WIND/ A8

Trunk is all that's left of sacada's memorabilia

By Frank Cimatu and Leoncio Balbin Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CANDON CITY—A GREEN WOODEN piece of luggage is all that's left of the personal belongings of Mariano Cortez, one of the first 15 Filipinos who went to Hawaii 100 years ago.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was scheduled to fly to Honolulu on Friday to lead the centennial celebration of the arrival of the first Filipino migrants to the United States, as part of her five-nation 13-day trip.

The Neverbreak trunk, made by Goldsmith and Co. of New Jersey, was what Cortez brought home in the 1930s after working 30 years as a "sacada" (sugarcane cutter) in Hawaii.

The large piece of luggage had leather edges and brass fittings. Its interior was lined with silk and it even had a minilocker.

Online auction houses usually sell the luggage for $200 (P10,100) but the Cortez children have no intention of selling the heirloom.

The Cortez children—Julia Cortez-Valdez, 79; Estrella Cortez-Orpilla, 72; Fidel, 69; Emilio, 67; Alejandro, 65, and Corazon Cortez-Bok, 62—live in Sitio Pakyaw, Barangay Tablac, in this city.

They said the luggage used to contain a suit which belonged to their father and vintage photographs of movie actors popular during his time. They now use it to keep the titles to the properties that their father bought after he returned from Hawaii.

The Cortez children said that because their father had worked abroad, he was able to give the family a comfortable life. They said Mariano used to send $3 a month to the family.

The relatives of brothers Prudencio and Cecilio Sagun, however, were

TRUNK/ A6

Hope, fear mix as desaparecidos' kin wait

By Norman Bordadora

MUCH LIKE AN EXPECTANT MOTHER, Elizabeth Calubad has a bag of fresh clothes and personal items ready for when the time comes.

But her expectation is tinged with fear: She does not know if the ones she is waiting for—her husband, National Democratic Front consultant Rogelio Calubad, and their son, 29-year-old Gabriel—are alive or dead.

"Right now, 50-50," Elizabeth told the INQUIRER of her hopes of seeing her husband and son alive. They were reportedly abducted by armed men in Calauag, Quezon, on the morning of June 17.

Elizabeth and the rest of her family marked Rogelio's 53rd birthday yesterday with a lunch organized by the human rights group Karapatan at a restaurant in Quezon City.

"I always bring this with me whenever I go to the military camps," Elizabeth said, indicating the brown travel bag beside her. "Just in case they decide to present my husband and son."

The bag contains clothes and other personal items for the two men, she said. She has thrown in a disposable razor, she said, "because my husband easily grows a beard."

"They weren't able to take anything with them when they were taken away. Surely, they'd need fresh clothes," she added.

Elizabeth said she was at home on the day her husband and son disappeared. She said she started calling and sending text messages to Rogelio on his mobile phone as early as 1 p.m. on June 17.

But there was no answer.

"I was calling and sending text messages until night. I knew that something bad had happened," she said. "The following day, I learned that they had been abducted by armed men."

Carmen Ancheta, who is also waiting for her husband Leopoldo Ancheta, likewise marked a family milestone without him.

HOPE/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/09/16/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Cops nab 2 suspected car bombers

By Julie S. Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitem, *Inquirer Mindanao*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—POLICE HAVE ARRESTED two Muslim separatist rebels suspected of involvement in a car bombing three months ago that targeted a powerful Mindanao politician and killed seven people, police said Saturday.

The two suspects were arrested late Friday while recuperating in a hospital in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat province after a bomb they were allegedly rigging detonated accidentally, provincial police chief Supt. Suharto Tucao said.

One lost a leg and another was wounded by shrapnel in the blast in nearby Maguindanao province.

Tucao said the pair were wanted by police in Maguindanao in connection with a bomb attack against Gov. Andal Ampatuan in June. Ampatuan survived the attack when the bomb exploded just moments after his car passed by a parked van where mortars rigged to explode had been hidden.

Two of Ampatuan's relatives and five other people in his convoy were killed in the bombing, which police blamed on two commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Accidental blast

MILF spokersperson Eid Kabalu said the two men were not involved in the attack on Ampatuan and were among four people wounded Monday in an accidental grenade explosion that killed three women in the house of a bride-to-be in Maguindanao.

"They had nothing to do with the earlier bombing," Kabalu said.

"The arrests were done illegally," he said. "There were no arrest warrants."

Tucao rejected Kabalu's claim. He told the INQUIRER: "Policemen from Maguindanao coordinated with us and they showed us a copy of arrest warrants."

No respite on Ramadan

The two suspects had been turned over the to the Maguindanao police, he said.

The government and the MILF have signed a ceasefire agreement and are involved in peace talks to end more than three decades of separatist insurgency.

The talks broke down last week over the issue of size and wealth of a proposed ancestral homeland.

Meanwhile, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo said the anti-terror operation in Sulu would continue even with the observance starting next week of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Oplan Ultimatum

Cedo said the military could not afford to lose the momentum of its operation against the Abu Sayyaf and suspected Indonesian terrorists hiding in the island-province.

Since the operation dubbed Oplan Ultimatum was launched in August, the military claimed it had killed dozens of Abu Sayyaf bandits, including one of its leaders, Ismin Sahiron, son of senior commander Radulan Sahiron.

Unconfirmed reports said the elder Sahiron was also killed, along with Jemaah Islamiyah operative Omar Patek, but the military said it had not verified the information.

The military also suffered casualties in the operation that entered its 47th day yesterday.

Except for those practicing Islam, soldiers in Sulu would continue pursuing the Abu Sayyaf and its JI allies.

He said the soldiers also wanted to finish the fight and put an end to Abu Sayyaf terrorism.

"The Marines, the Army, the Special Forces and all other units there wanted to finish and eliminate the terrorists and they will not stop until this is done," Cedo said.

Westmincom spokesperson Maj. Eugene Batarra said the Abu Sayyaf could regroup if the military suspended its operation during the Ramadan.

No disrespect to Islam

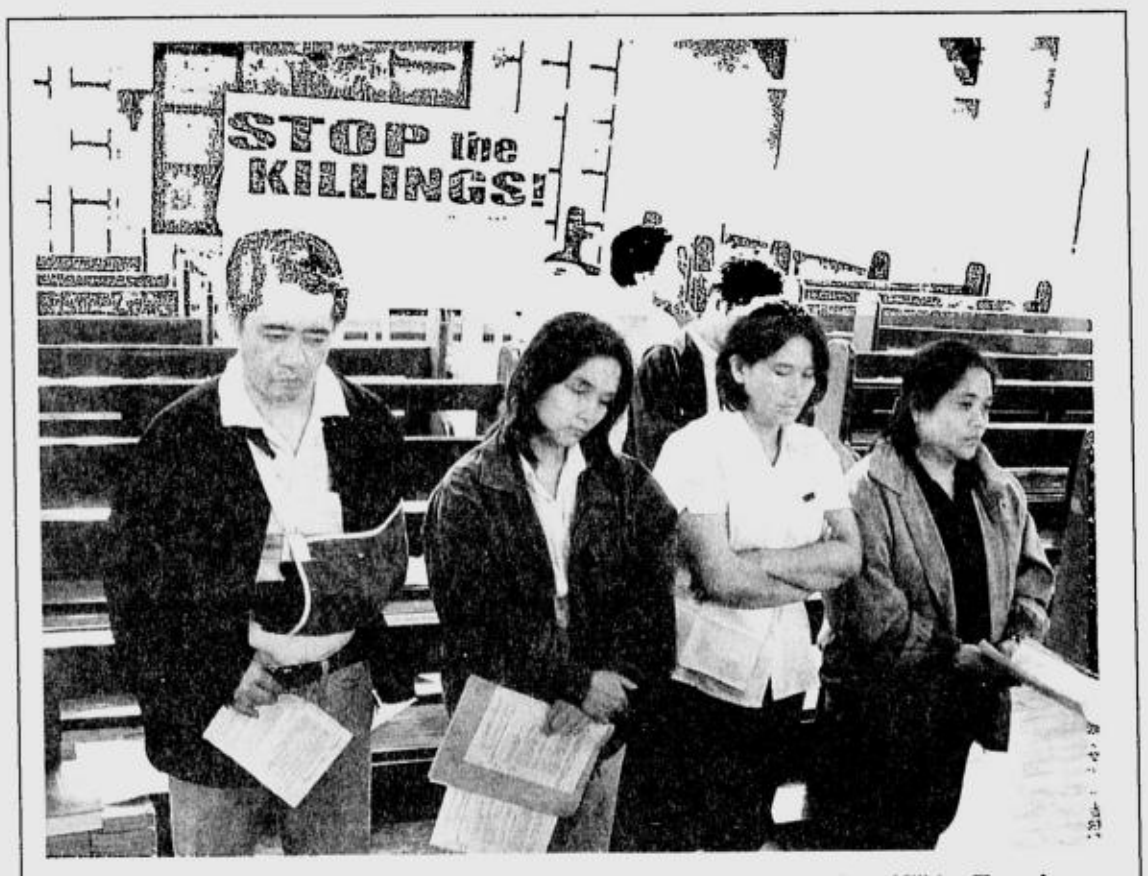
"In the past, the observance of Ramadan has always been used by the bandits and terrorists to consolidate and recuperate from combat losses," he said.

Batarra said the decision to continue the operation was not an act of disrespect to Islam.

"Terrorists don't respect Ramadan and we will give them what they want," he said.

He said Muslim soldiers would only allow a break during Ramadan if if they wanted to observe it.

"We have a policy on that," he said. *With AP, Reuters reports*



SPOUSES FOR JUSTICE. Dr. Chandu Claver, Elvie Sanchez, Agustina Bangit and Elbina Terredano (from left) survived the series of assassinations in Kalinga province in which their spouses perished. They form the core group of Hustisya, a support and lobby group for families of murdered activists launched at the Church of the Resurection in Baguio City on Sept. 14. ***(Story on Page A15)***

VINCENT CABREZA/ INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Military wants younger recruits

By Dona Pazzibugan

AS PART OF THE REFORMS BEING undertaken to make the 120,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines younger and fitter, military leaders are proposing to lower the recruitment age for military service.

AFP officials want to start recruiting potential soldiers at 17, a year younger than the present minimum enlistment age of 18.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. explained that lowering the allowable enlistment age would bring down the average age of Filipino soldiers, especially those in the front lines.

The average age of soldiers serving in the infantry battalions is 39. This means many soldiers continue to fight despite their mature age.

An aging military has become a cause for worry as this is seen to be hampering operations.

According to defense officials, the ideal average age for military service is 24 to 26.

The retirement age for both officers and soldiers is 56.

"If you lower the recruitment age to 17, that would bring down the average age of our soldiers to a year lower," Esperon said.

Under the proposed National Defense Act submitted to Congress, the defense department wants to peg the enlistment window at 17 to 23 years old.

The enlistment age at present is 18 to 26 years old.

Being minors, those who want to enlist at age 17 have to sign a waiver, said Esperon.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Army has sent back to the field some 350 junior officers and enlisted personnel found to have been serving in its Fort Bonifacio headquarters for several years.

"I don't know what they're doing here," Army Chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said with a shrug.

He said some of the 350 junior officers and soldiers had been doing staff work in Fort Bonifacio for seven years when ideally their office assignment should only last for three years.

"Before you go to headquarters, you should be a soldier first in the field," he said.

He said the same number of soldiers will be recalled from the field to serve in the headquarters as a break.

Tolentino said another 200 junior officers and enlisted personnel based in Fort Bonifacio would be deployed back to the field within the month.

AFP downplays Esperon's remarks on Lim, Querubin

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY DOWNPLAYED the remarks made last week by Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. on not giving ex-Scout Rangers commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin a "second chance."

Lim's lawyer protested that Esperon had already preempted the ongoing pretrial investigation of Lim, Querubin and 36 other officers from the elite First Scout Ranger Regiment and the Marine Corps who were allegedly involved in the aborted Feb. 24 coup plot.

"I was shocked because he preempted the general court martial from arriving at a fair decision. That is an unfair and unjust statement," said Lim's lawyer Vicente Verdadero.

A military spokesperson however insisted Esperon did not betray a prejudgment of the case.

"The Chief of Staff did not prejudge anyone on any matter when he said that General Lim and Colonel Querubin will not be given second chances," said Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, chief of the AFP public information office.

"If evidence will show that Lim, Querubin or any others included in the controversy surrounding the "Marines standoff incident" violated any Philippine laws or military law, then they should face the consequences of their actions," Bacarro stressed.

Bacarro said Esperon has given "strict instructions that a complete, thorough and impartial investigation will be conducted to ferret out the truth."

But Verdadero said they are studying their legal options, including asking Esperon to inhibit himself.

On Monday, Esperon told the Manila Overseas Press Club that he would not give Lim and Querubin another chance to resume their military careers after getting involved in another coup plot.

Lim and Querubin were among the leaders of the Young Officers Union (YOU) that staged the bloody December 1989 coup d'etat against the Aquino administration in which at least 50 civilians were killed and several others injured.

"I have a lot of respect for the likes of General Danny Lim being the commander of the First Scout Ranger Regiment. Colonel Querubin on the other hand has my respects. But I don't think past glories can ever be an excuse for going out of bounds. They have committed offenses that violated the Articles of War therefore they must answer for their transgressions," Esperon had said.

Palace to charge all in oil spill

HONOLULU (VIA PLDT)—MALACAÑANG IS readying charges against all parties deemed liable "directly or indirectly" for the massive oil spill that contaminated the waters of Guimaras Island and nearby islands, destroying mangroves and other marine resources.

"Let the law take its course. The government shall file charges against all those found culpable in the MT Solar 1 oil spill and bring justice to all the victims of this maritime tragedy," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a briefing.

Bunye said all parties would be held liable for actions that contributed directly or indirectly, whether partly or in whole, to the incident.

An investigative team had found both tanker owner Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. and Petron Corp. liable for the oil spill. ***(Related story on Page A15)***

"President Arroyo has already issued marching orders for the concerned agencies to determine and implement the necessary maritime reforms that will address institutional and individual lapses leading to such incidents. We should never let this tragedy happen again," Bunye said.

Petron yesterday reiterated its position that there was no overloading that occurred on the Solar 1 as reported by the government-formed special board of marine inquiry.

"As far as we are concerned, there was no overloading since the bunker fuel we loaded was within the ship's capacity in terms of volume and weight," Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said in a statement.

The overloading of the Solar 1 was cited as one of the reasons the oil tanker sank off the Guimaras on Aug. 11, triggering the worst oil spill in the country's history. ***Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning***

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'Bomber' may face more raps

By Tina G. Santos

"ANTITERRORISM EXPERT" SAM MACARIOLA could be charged with obstruction of justice should witnesses come forward and testify that he also showed them the video that recorded his alleged smuggling of bomb components onto two domestic flights last month, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

The video was supposedly shown by Macariola to journalist Arlyn dela Cruz, who based her story that came out in the INQUIRER on it.

The NBI said charges could be filed against Macariola should Daniel Cruz, a friend of Dela Cruz through whom she met Macariola, and another person who supposedly saw the video would confirm her story and testify against the bomb expert.

The NBI yesterday issued another subpoena against Macariola ordering him to turn in the video. Macariola had earlier claimed that what he had shown Dela Cruz was just a "training video."

Macariola appeared at the NBI last Wednesday to deny he had breached security at the domestic airport by smuggling bomb components onto a Manila-Davao flight and back on Aug. 14. He issued an affidavit denying "any wrongdoing unjustly attributed to me."

Macariola is expected to appear at the NBI again tomorrow morning, while Dela Cruz, who had also shown up at the agency last week, is expected in the afternoon.

Dela Cruz, accompanied by her husband and lawyer Fortunato Pagdanganan, came to the NBI on Friday but has yet to submit a formal statement.

She said a witness would soon surface to confirm the story she had written about Macariola that first appeared in the INQUIRER on Sept. 1. She did not identify the witness but said he was a member of media.

'Who's afraid of Ang?'

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER SEN. RENE Saguisag, one of the lawyers of deposed President Joseph Estrada, yesterday said the extradition of Estrada crony Charlie "Atong" Ang posed no threat to his client's "imminent acquittal."

Ang, accused along with the former president of plunder before the Sandiganbayan, is expected to be sent back to the country following the completion of extradition proceedings in the United States.

Denial

"We have no reason whatsoever to doubt that he will deviate from his earlier testimony before the Senate blue ribbon committee, the justice committee and the committee on human rights, on this matter," Saguisag said.

Saguisag said members of Estrada's defense team were not worried about any testimony that may be elicited his friend, "because Mr. Ang has consistently and credibly denied any involvement in the plunder charge filed against him."

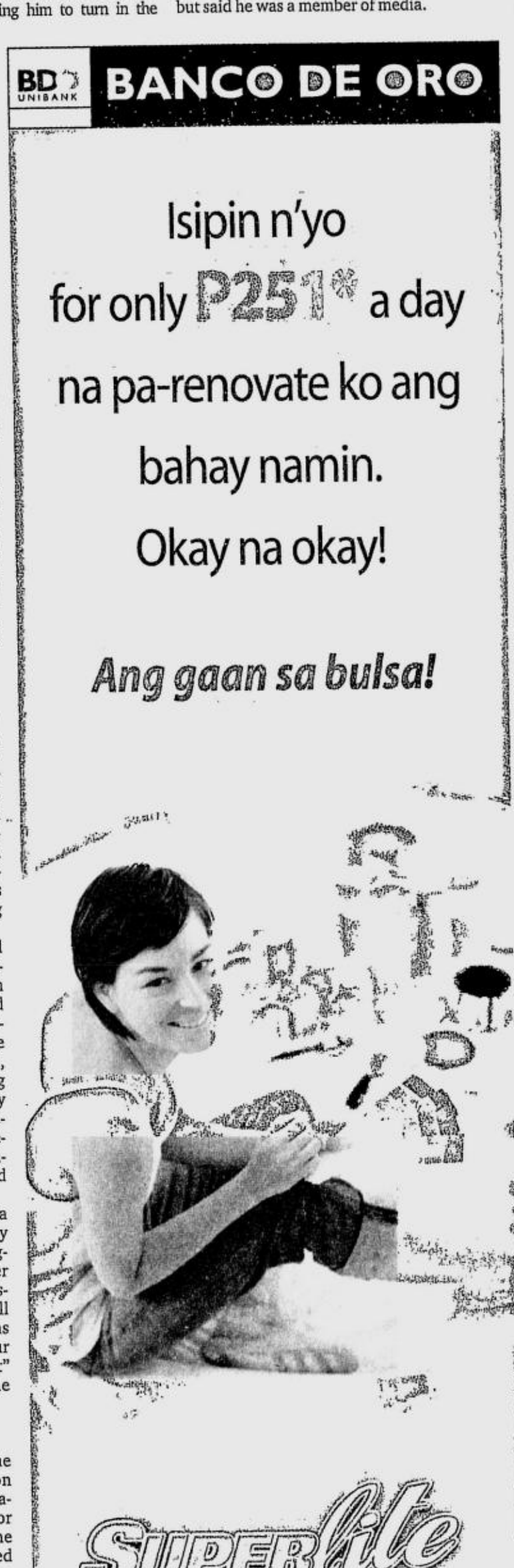
Ang, during a joint Senate inquiry into Estrada wrongdoing in October 2000, had dismissed as untrue all the accusations made by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson against the ousted president.

Vengeance

Ang said at the time that Singson had accused Estrada out of a desire for vengeance after the governor's alleged "jueteng" operations in the Ilocos region were taken over by the Bingo-2 Ball backed by the Estrada administration.

He had added that Singson's revelation that P130 million representing proceeds from Ilocos Sur excise taxes were delivered to Estrada's Greenhills residence never happened.

Saguisag said the defense team was in the process of finalizing its proffer of evidence and was now more convinced that the 80 defense witnesses and the mountain of evidence presented in behalf of Estrada had demolished the prosecution's case.



IMF sees robust Asia, but challenges remain

SINGAPORE—ASIA'S ECONOMIC output is likely to remain strong this year and in 2007, but monetary and fiscal policy will prove challenging during this period, the International Monetary Fund said on Saturday.

In a detailed report on Asia's economic outlook released ahead of the IMF and World Bank annual meetings, the IMF projected a slight slowdown in export growth—in a region where exports are the equivalent of between 40 and 200 percent of GDP—but it said capital flows into Asia would remain robust.

The IMF said monetary tightening in Asia had managed to rein in inflationary pressures and interest rates had probably peaked.

Policy setting could become challenging, the IMF said, owing to the upside risks to inflation, the narrowing interest differential with the United States, the possible sharp slowing of growth without an accompanying easing in inflation and the risks to the banking sector from rapid credit growth.

"Looking forward, there may be scope for a loosening of monetary policy in some countries, but high oil prices and narrowing interest rate differentials with industrial countries will pose constraints," it said.

Longer-term fiscal challenges remained, such as upgrading infrastructure and costs related to aging societies.

"Fiscal policy has in most countries been broadly appropriate, but some countries have not taken full advantage of rapid growth to make progress on fiscal consolidation," the IMF said.

It forecast growth in Asia—including emerging Asia, Japan, Australia and New Zealand—would reach 7.3 percent this year and then decline marginally to 7.1 percent in 2007, still outpacing other regions.

It defines emerging Asia as China, India, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

The IMF said the region's current account surplus would be broadly unchanged this year and next at about 3.5 percent of GDP.

In emerging Asia excluding China, surpluses are projected to decline modestly in 2006, reflecting a higher oil import bill and, in some cases, the impact of currency appreciation.

The IMF said Asian export growth rates would decline, owing to a slight slowdown in the US economy and some deceleration in economic activity in Japan and the euro zone, despite a pick-up in intra-regional trade. It forecast annual export growth of 15.7 percent in 2006 and 14.5 percent in 2007, down from 16.2 in 2005.

Risks for Asia, particularly in 2007, included the pace of the slowdown in the US economy, the future path of oil prices and likely increased risk aversion towards emerging markets.

Asia's "strong fundamentals, reduced vulnerabilities and fairer valuations" would attract sizable capital inflows, the IMF said.

Net private capital flows to Asia could increase to $88 billion this year from $60 billion in 2005, it said. Net foreign direct investment (FDI) flows could remain strong at $85 billion in 2006, slightly down from $93 billion in 2005, it said.

Yet portfolio flows would moderate as investors expect Asian monetary tightening to end soon and spreads between Asian and US interest rates to remain near zero well into 2007, the IMF said. *Reuters*

One Asian currency long way off —IMF

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE—A UNIFIED currency for Asia, similar to the monetary unit circulating in Europe, is not expected anytime soon, according to the the International Monetary Fund, which nonetheless supports the region's effort toward financial integration.

In a press briefing yesterday ahead of the joint IMF-World Bank meetings, IMF director for Asia and the Pacific David Burton said that based on the European example, creating a single currency within an economic bloc was a long and tedious process.

"I think that Asia having a unified currency is at best a long way off," Burton said. "Based on the experience of Europe, it requires stringent conditions to do that. Countries must be willing to give up sovereignty over monetary policy."

Burton noted that Asian economies are in varying stages of development with different political systems, making it difficult for the countries to establish a unified currency.

"That said, their move towards regional integration is a sensible and desirable one," he said. "Various initiatives to open financial markets to each other will boost infrastructure and trading platform."

The Asian Development Bank earlier urged Asian countries to revive efforts to adopt a single currency not only to foster greater regional trade but also to shield the region from external financial shocks similar to the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Urging Asian leaders to capitalize on the vast amount of foreign exchange reserves held by countries in the region, the ADB also said countries should allow greater exchange rate flexibility.

VICE President Noli de Castro (second from left) hosted a dinner Friday for delegates to the Indaba in the Philippines international mining conference to project the country's advantages as a mining site. With De Castro are (from left): Chamber of Mines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes and Tanzania Energy Minister Lawrence Masha. ROMY HOMILLADA

Be responsible, Reyes tells foreign mining execs

By Norman Bordadora

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Angelo Reyes urged foreign mining executives to connect with various stakeholders in the mining industry to make it responsive to the needs of the community and the environment while still being a lucrative business endeavor.

Reyes stressed that the Philippines only welcomes foreign investors that are responsible for their mining operations' effects on the residents and environment while making a pitch to government officials and mining investors from seven countries, including mining giants Tanzania and South Africa.

"Modern mining, wherever located must come to terms with the varying views and desires of stakeholders. It's all about the 'social license to operate.' It's all about democracy in action," Reyes said at the close of the Indaba in the Philippines Mining Conference on Thursday.

The mining conference, held on Sept. 11-14, was attended by delegates from Australia, Britain, United States, South Africa, Tanzania, Ghana and Mali.

The confab was aimed at projecting the Philippines as a mining investor haven with $1 trillion in untapped metallic and non-metallic mineral resources based on estimates by DENR experts.

Delegates to the conference were taken to mining sites in the country such as the copper project in Tampakan, South Cotabato—one whose coordination with the community and stakeholders impressed Tanzanian deputy minister for energy and minerals Lawrence Kego Masha.

"If there is something I will take away from my visit to Manila in the Philippines, and to Tampakan in particular, it will be to try to convince mining companies in Tanzania to realize that corporate social responsibility and interaction with local communities should start at the earliest stage possible," Masha said.

Masha said he was very much impressed by the "huge investment in social responsibility" made by Sagittarius Mines Inc. at the Tampakan copper project in South Cotabato despite still being in the early stages of exploration.

SMI has coordinated with Tampakan folk and environmental watchdogs in the area while still in the pre-feasibility setting stage of its operations.

"I believe the model in Tampakan can be a role model for countries around world within the mining sector," Masha said.

He said that he would send a team of experts from Tanzania to Tampakan, so that Tanzania could also benefit from the Tampakan experience.

Reyes said the general perception that mining is a "dirty business" that benefits only a few can be overcome through dialogue with all concerned sectors especially those living in areas where mining operations will be conducted.

"Stakeholder engagement is a must. However, it is not about bringing them to our side of the fence but respecting their views and working with them towards the common ground solutions facing the mining project," he said.

Reyes said that while the government is pushing for foreign mining investments in the country, environmental management and protection and social development are enshrined in Philippine laws.

He said the best practices and sustainable mining must always be considered to ensure that mining proceeds in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

"Let it be emphasized that the Philippine government is revitalizing mining not purely for the expected economic benefits but with due and equal regard for the environment and the communities," Reyes said.

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Canada sets up projects for landslide-hit town

By Nikko Dizon

CANADA WILL UNDERTAKE SIX projects worth an estimated P13 million in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, for disaster relief and mitigation following the tragic landslides that wiped out an entire village and killed over a thousand people early this year.

The projects were recently approved by Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Sutherland.

"Canada's relief and rehabilitation projects were designed not only to offer immediate assistance and aid to those affected by the landslides in February, but also to provide training and long-term help," Sutherland said in a statement.

The projects include child protection and emergency education support for families suffering from post-disaster trauma in affected areas in Southern Leyte; agricultural assistance and the upgrading of skills of local officials and residents to help them better prepare for natural disasters; disaster mitigation through community-based reforestation activities; promotion of sustainable agriculture to enable upland farmers and residents achieve economic and physical security; the formulation of disaster management plans and formation of multisectoral disaster response groups, and the creation of a community-based disaster response program in high-risk areas such as Nueva Ecija and Aurora.

"By making civilians better prepared, government officials better equipped and the natural environment more resilient, Canada's emergency assistance to Southern Leyte will help ensure that the next time disaster strikes, there will be fewer communities affected and fewer lives lost," Sutherland said.

The Canadian Embassy said that funds for the projects would come from the special "Southern Leyte Landslides" relief and rehabilitation allocation from Ottawa.

The allocation was disbursed through the Canadian Embassy's Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

Ombudsman clears Romulo of 'conflict' rap

THE OMBUDSMAN HAS cleared Ambassador Roberto R. Romulo of any conflict of interest in his appointment as Presidential Senior Advisor for International Competitiveness.

In a decision signed by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez on Sept. 4, 2006, the antigraft body said there was no proof that a conflict of interest existed in Romulo's advisory position and his business activities.

"It is essentially material that the existence of such conflict of interest be proved first," read the decision penned by graft investigation and Prosecution Officer Lourdes S. Padre Juan.

"Stressing the importance of an established existing conflict of interest for any public official to be responsible thereunder, it is reiterated that the 'conflict of interest' be specifically defined and/or be stated with particularity or certainty for the purpose of establishing probable cause against the erring official," Juan said.

The decision dated Jan. 16, 2006, resulted from a motion for reconsideration filed by former Solicitor General Frank Chavez.

The Ombudsman threw out Chavez's earlier complaint against Romulo for "insufficiency of evidence."

The decision said there was a difference between "Cabinet" and "Cabinet level" positions. The latter can hold a private sector position unlike the President, Vice President, Cabinet members and their deputies.

Nursing on Libyan exec's mind

LIBYAN LABOR MINISTER MATUGH Mohamed Matugh Salem is currently in the country to work out with Department of Labor and Employment officials the details of the deployment of Filipino nurses to Libya.

Salem, who arrived Sept. 14, was met by Labor Undersecretaries Danilo Cruz and Manuel Imson as Labor Secretary Arturo Brion is in New York City to attend a United Nations conference on migration.

Cruz, who is acting DOLE chief, said the minister's visit comes on the heels of President Macapagal-Arroyo's trip to Libya on July 16-18.

During that visit, Libya and the Philippines forged an agreement establishing the parameters for cooperation on the deployment of skilled Filipino workers to the oil-rich north African country.

There are about 8,000 overseas Filipino workers in Libya and with the agreement, the labor department sees that country becoming an emerging OFW market, Cruz said. *Jerome Aning*

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One-sixth of HIV-positive Filipinos migrant women workers, says UN report

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—ONE-SIXTH OF Filipinos diagnosed as HIV-positive are female migrant workers, according to a United Nations official.

"Separation from family and spouses, isolation and loneliness can encourage people to engage in high-risk sexual relations. This can abet the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections," said Suneeta Mukherjee, the country representative of the United Nations Population Fund which this week released its State of the World Population Report 2006.

Mukherjee said the report noted the link between migration and HIV/AIDS, particularly in the case of migration from low-risk areas like the Philippines to high-risk countries.

She also cited Department of Health statistics showing that of the 2,566 Filipinos diagnosed as HIV-positive, 35 percent were overseas workers.

"Of those tested positive, 36 percent were female," she said.

Mukherjee said this year's State of the World Population Report focused on migrant women workers.

"Increasingly, international migration wears a woman's face. In 2005, over 65 percent of the nearly 3,000 Filipinos who left the country every day for work or residence were women," she said.

The report said about half of international migrants were women.

Mukherjee also noted with concern the massive migration of health professionals from the Philippines.

"Over a 10-year period from 1994 to 2004, the country has deployed some 85,000 nurses abroad," she said.

"This diaspora can only have dire effects on the health systems of the sending countries. The World Health Organization recommends a minimum of 100 nurses for every 100,000 people," she said.

In 2003, only 15 percent of the 200,000 Filipino nurses were working in the Philippines, according to the National Institute of Health. That translates to 100 nurses per 283,000 Filipinos.

But the huge loss to the country's health care system spells a big gain in remittances, the report said.

"The better news is that female migrants account for a growing proportion of remittances sent to families and relatives left behind," Mukherjee said.

The report took note of the Philippines where a third of about $6 billion generated annually came from overseas women workers.

"Women's remittances would have an even greater impact on poverty reduction and development if they did not face wage employment, credit and property discrimination, and if they were not excluded from decision-making," said Mukherjee.

The downside is that remittances exacerbate income inequality among the receiving families and their less-fortunate neighbors, she said.

Remittances also encourage dependency because they discourage government from undertaking efforts to restructure their economy, she said.

Another major concern is human rights and cultural adversity.

Mukherjee noted that the top three destinations of overseas Filipino workers were Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates.

None of these countries have ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

"With the non-adherence of many receiving countries to the convention, women international migrants face multiple risks of human rights violations on the basis of gender, of their socio economic class and of their ethnicity," she said.

STUDENTS at the Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial Dumaguete Science High School welcome their "Guyito," this one painted and decorated by filmmaker and artist Kidlat Tahimik. ALEX PAL / INQUIRER VISAYAS

'Guyito' excites Dumaguete studes

DUMAGUETE CITY—"HE'S Here! He's here!"

Everyone turned expectantly to the gates of the Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial Dumaguete Science High School. At the sight of the truck carrying a wooden crate big enough to hold a carabao, the students broke out in cheers. "Guyito" had finally arrived.

A sculpture of Guyito, the carabao mascot of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, is being distributed to 20 high schools all over the country. To commemorate its 20th anniversary last year, the INQUIRER had 20 of these life-sized Guyitos molded, painted and decorated by 20 of the country's top artists on the theme "The Power of Knowing."

The students could hardly contain themselves as they watched the workers uncrate the glass-encased sculpture.

The Guyito that arrived in Dumaguete on Friday was painted and decorated by Baguio-based artist and filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik.

Tahimik had painted the carabao pink, which just happened to be the school's color, as one teacher noted excitedly.

"I was surprised to see that it's made of native materials. The concept is unique and it's so Filipino," said junior Tom Macasojot.

The RTPMDSHS won the right to a Guyito after one of its students, Angelo Ryan Mangubat, emerged as one of the top 20 winners of the National Quiz Bee.

"This is not just a wonderful gift to the school, it's also a gift to Dumaguete City and the province of Negros Oriental. We're very proud to have him," said Negros Oriental Vice Gov. Jose Baldado.

Baldado said he hoped the school administrators would take Guyito on a "tour" of other school campuses and government offices in Dumaguete.

Gary Libby, PDI vice president for information technology, national editor Jun Bandayrel and corporate relations head Connie Kalagayan formally turned Guyito over to its new owners.

The PDI officers also conducted lectures for the RPTMDSHS students on the operations of the INQUIRER and the newspaper-making process. *Alex Pal, Inquirer Visayas*

Students hit placing of nursing review centers under CHEd

By Alcuin Papa

MILITANT STUDENTS HAVE protested the authority over review centers given by Malacañang to the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd).

The Kabataan Party said Friday placing review centers under the CHEd would not stop cheating in board exams and would impose excessive fees on reviewees.

Raymond Palatino, Kabataan Party president, said, "How could CHEd effectively stop cheating and the imposition of exorbitant fees in nursing review centers if it can't even penalize private schools that continue to violate its guidelines and increase tuition and other school fees? CHEd's futility in the face of pressure from private school owners only shows that it has no credibility and is incompetent to do the job."

Palatino said the CHEd's plan to close nursing review centers was "another knee-jerk solution" to the problem exposed by the alleged leak of test questions in the last nursing board exams.

He said that while the government and CHEd were "quick to castigate" nursing review centers, they continued to allow the operation of substandard schools "that deceive students and parents."

"Clearly, this is another lip service, a media gimmick on the part of the Arroyo administration and CHEd intended to show the public that it is doing something to the resolve the problem which they have tolerated for years," he said.

Palatino said the imposition of excessive fees on nursing exam reviewees would likely to continue since most nursing review centers were owned and operated by nursing school owners themselves.

"If the government is really sincere in instituting reforms in the nursing profession, it must not only scrutinize the operations of review centers but should include nursing schools which have mushroomed over the past years," he said.

Malacañang recently placed nursing review centers under CHEd supervision as a result of the fallout from the nursing exam leak. Investigation showed certain review centers might have been involved in the leak.

DepEd to rain benefits on RP's top high school

TOMAS OPPUS, SOUTHERN Leyte—It pays to excel in the National Achievement Test (NAT), as the top-ranked Rizal National High School has found out.

According to Tomas Oppus Mayor Felicula Escaño, the school has been promised more computers, teachers and buildings by the Department of Education and the local government administration.

"DepEd has promised to give computers, additional teachers and buildings, including facilities and amenities," Escaño said during the recent turnover of the school's new Secondary Education Development and Improvement Program (SEDIP) building.

The local government has earmarked P500,000 in additional funding for a new two-room building, she said.

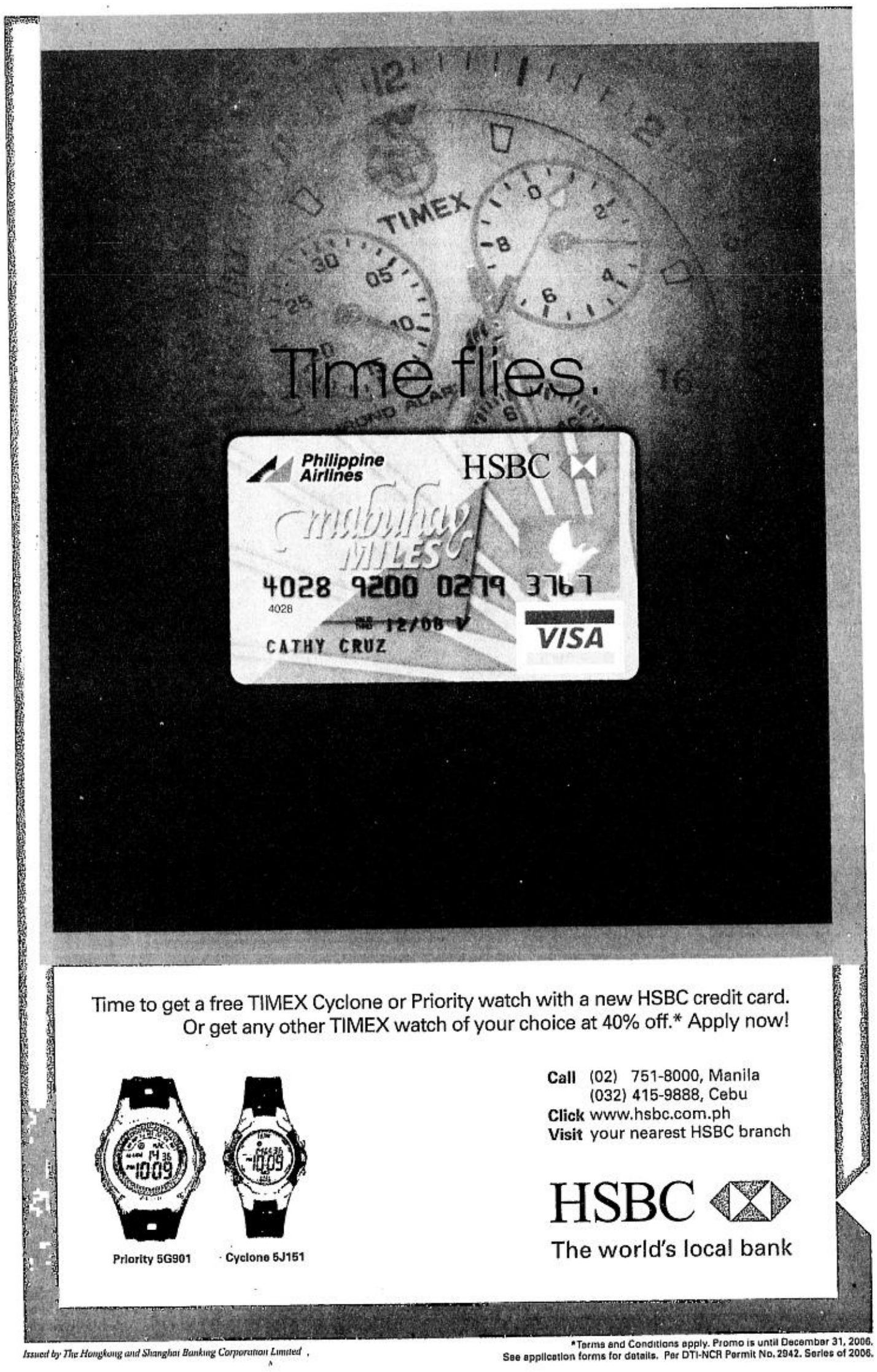
The municipal government contributed P600,000 for the new P1.6-million SEDIP building, Escaño said at the turnover ceremonies attended by Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias and DepEd division superintendent Violeta Alocilja.

Rizal National High School topped the NAT nationwide with a rating of 81.48 mean percentage score (MPS), followed by Marayag National High School of San Francisco town with 79.07 and Pintuyan National High School with 78.69. Five other high schools in Southern Leyte made it to the top 30 in the NAT which was conducted in March 2006.

RNHS principal Margarita Badeo attributed the school's feat to sheer diligence and the support of the parents "without which our sacrifices would not have borne fruit."

When it started out in 1997, the school had one building made of bamboo and nipa, and no flooring.

Today, it boasts several buildings and nine teachers, serving 194 students. *Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas*



'We'll fight to the end'

From page A1

amine, but she told us no," Nicole said.

The state prosecutors are in charge of the criminal aspect of the case; Nicole's private lawyers (Ursua, Honorato Aquino and Anna Liza Gonzales) are handling the civil aspect.

Silent on Bolante

Nicole said she was standing by her mother's statement on Friday that a proposal to settle was made by De los Santos.

"I believe in my heart that my mother did not lie," she said, adding in Filipino: "She kept this from me for a long time because she didn't want me to be dismayed and lose courage."

But Nicole's statement was silent on her mother's claim that, according to De los Santos, the highly charged rape case would be "traded off" with the case of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante if Nicole chose not to settle.

(Bolante, the purported architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam linked to alleged election machinations in 2004, is under detention in the United States, fighting extradition.)

Of the trade-off claim by Nicole's mother, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday angrily said on the phone: "That's baloney, that's totally false, that's untrue."

Gonzalez pointed out that at the time De los Santos supposedly told Nicole's mother about the trade-off, the Bolante case was not yet a big issue.

He said the rape trial had now taken "a political angle," which "explains why they are suddenly linking" the two cases.

"The direction there is somebody from the opposition taught them to hit GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) with this issue," he said.

Who's lying?

Gonzalez issued a "challenge" to both Nicole's mother and De los Santos to undergo a lie detector test to determine who was lying.

He said Nicole's mother could even take the test at the US Embassy or with independent "truth verifiers" if she did not want to undergo the procedure at the National Bureau of Investigation, an agency under the DOJ.

Besides, he said, "we have not been talking about this Bolante case at the DOJ, so there is no reason for De los Santos to discuss it [with Nicole's mother]."

Gonzalez said the attention given Nicole and her camp could have gone to the mother's head.

"They're so pampered by the public... They think they are so much of a celebrity that whatever they do, the prosecution will kowtow to them. What they are doing is so unkind, and I resent it," he said.

Gonzalez said on Friday that he might be ready with a new panel of prosecutors by next week, after he had evaluated Nicole's letter of request to Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

But yesterday, he appeared to have changed his mind.

'I'm not that stupid'

"We should first listen to the statements of the prosecutors..." Gonzalez said. "We cannot have our prosecutors used as punching bags. We cannot just replace them simply because somebody says they do not like the way they look."

In her statement, Nicole lashed out at Gonzalez who had said on Friday that she might again be "imagining things."

Noting that Gonzalez had "expressed from the start his disbelief in my claim of rape," Nicole said: "Mr. Secretary, I did not imagine the rape. Since your people are supposed to be prosecuting my rapists, you should never have said that.

"I'm not that stupid to have put myself in this predicament by making things up.

"I only want people to know the truth and achieve justice for what Daniel Smith and the other accused had done to me. Fighting for my dignity as well as the dignity of my country and standing up firmly for the case is the most courageous thing that I have ever done."

Nicole, a college graduate from Zamboanga City, also said that having come this far, "why would I think of a settlement?"

She said Ursua had also told her that she had "the option to settle" and that this was her "right."

"[But] I said to her that to settle is to think only of the short term, and I don't want to blame myself that I did not fight," Nicole said, adding:

"I know I will be bothered by my conscience someday if I didn't fight and seek justice."

Stunned

Speaking on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan," Hazel Valdez, the only one among the state prosecutors the complainant wanted retained, said Nicole's mother had failed to appreciate the rules of court as well as the sacrifices of the team.

Valdez said she and her colleagues were stunned by the claims of Nicole's mother.

She said she did not believe that De los Santos had proposed a settlement. And if there had been "an instruction for a trade-off," she said, the team would not have pushed through with the case.

She also said that among the public prosecutors, only she had been reaching out to Nicole and her family, but "on a professional basis."

Valdez said there was no basis for Nicole's request that the DOJ replace the four other state prosecutors.

She also said the claim by Nicole and her mother that Quiambao did not ask the right questions during his cross-examination of Smith was incorrect.

"They should understand that not everything they want is acceptable in court," Valdez said. "The record will bear us out that of the questions they wanted asked, some were objected to by the defense and sustained by the judge; the other questions were objectionable, or not allowed under the rules."

Over-reaction

Valdez said it was natural for Smith to defend himself and portray Nicole in a bad light, in the same way that the complainant painted a negative image of the accused.

"Maybe [they] are just over-reacting," she said.

Asked by De Castro if she would stay on as a prosecutor in the case, Valdez reiterated that it was up to the justice secretary to decide the matter. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Bishop defends Pope

LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN ARCHBISHop Oscar Cruz yesterday rushed to the defense of Pope Benedict XVI, in the wake of Muslim anger over the Catholic leader's remarks touching on Islam.

"Where is the attack, insult or offense?" Cruz said in a statement posted in his blog (ovc.blogspot.com).

He said that the Pope was merely quoting a 14th century Byzantine emperor in pointing out that reason, respect and dialogue, not violence, should characterize the relationship between Christianity and Islam.

Cruz said the alleged attack, insult or offense against the Muslim religion attributed to the Pope was "not only a gross falsity but also a bad joke."

According to Cruz, the substance of the Pope's lecture was a threefold truth: First, faith and reason are compatible; second, faith illumines reason functions; and third, reason affirms faith acts.

"In other words, just as God has the disposition to make himself known to man, man on the other hand has the capacity to know God," the prelate said.

The Pope, Cruz said, even drew attention to a Muslim scripture passage, Surah 2,256, which states, "There is no compulsion in religion."

"In plain words, the Pope himself subscribes to the truth brought forward by Mohammad that mere force cannot make man have faith," he said. "Man should not only see the rationality of the faith but also freely accept it; otherwise, man would not have genuine faith."

The Pope, he explained, wanted to impress his listeners at the lecture and the faithful in general that violence or force had no place in the interaction between God and man.

"In the same way, force or violence cannot make man really believe in God," the archbishop added.

Cruz pointed out that the source of Muslim anger was a quote that Benedict himself refuted. *Jerome Aning*

Pope sorry over speech . . .

From page A1

Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone said in a statement.

The statement came amid mounting anger from Muslims over remarks by the Pope in a speech in his native Germany on Tuesday that was seen as critical of their faith. Calls for him to apologize had spread beyond the Islamic world.

In Cairo, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood said Pope Benedict's statement that he was sorry for upsetting Muslims by his recent comments on Islam did not go far enough.

"We want a personal apology. We feel that he has committed a grave error against us and that this mistake will only be removed through a personal apology," Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Leader Mohammed Habib told Reuters.

A wave of protest from Muslims across the globe descended on the Vatican Friday as the Islamic world denounced comments by Pope Benedict XVI linking Islam with violence.

Benedict's remarks on Islam and jihad in a speech in Germany have prompted fears that they would unleash a torrent of rage that could burst into violent protests like those that followed publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

The last outpouring of Islamic anger at the West came in February over the prophet cartoons first published in a Danish newspaper. The drawings sparked protests—some of them deadly—in almost every Muslim nation in the world.

Some experts said the perceived provocation by the spiritual leader of more than a billion Roman Catholics could leave even deeper scars.

"The declarations from the Pope are more dangerous than the cartoons, because they come from the most important Christian authority in the world—the cartoons just came from an artist," said Diaa Rashwan, an analyst in Cairo, Egypt, who studies Islamic militancy.

In Germany, however, Chancellor Angela Merkel came to Benedict's defense saying: "Those who criticize the Pope misunderstand the intention of his speech, which was to call for dialogue between the religions.

"What Benedict XVI was expressing was his absolute rejection without compromise of any use of violence in the name of religion."

Most Muslims did not see things the same way.

In Gaza City, four small makeshift bombs exploded near the oldest Christian church, with no casualties.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya slammed the Pope's comments, saying: "These remarks go against the truth and touch the heart of our faith.

"The Pope should revise his comments and stop attacking Islam, which is the religion of more than 1.5 billion people," he said after the main weekly Muslim prayers in a Gaza mosque.

In the German city of Regensburg on Tuesday, the German-born head of more than one billion Roman Catholics implicitly denounced links between Islam and violence particularly in regard to jihad, or "holy war."

Quoting a 14th-century Byzantine emperor on the Prophet Mohammad, founder of the Muslim faith, the Pope said: "He said, I quote, 'Show me just what Mohammad brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.'"

The Pope's spokesman said later Benedict respected Islam but rejected violence motivated by religion. The explanation, however, failed to quell Muslims' fury.

The Pakistani parliament unanimously passed a resolution demanding the Pope "retract his remarks in the interest of harmony between religions."

In India, the chairman of the National Commission for Minorities, Hamid Ansari, said: "The language used by the Pope sounds like that of his 12th century counterpart who ordered the Crusades," in which Roman Catholics slaughtered Muslims to take the Holy Land.

The head of the Islamic Society of North America made the same parallel.

"If we want to sit down and compare the history of violence committed in the name of the Catholic Church and violence committed in the name of Islam, that would take a long time," Ingrid Mattson said.

"We have 500 years of inquisition, the counter-reformation, the Crusades ... All religions have been used for violence. None has been excluded, including Judaism;" she continued.

The Pope's speech also caused anger in Turkey, the destination of his next foreign trip in November.

The head of Turkey's state-run religious affairs directorate, Ali Bardakoglu, described the remarks as "full of enmity and grudge" and said he should not come to Turkey.

Salih Kapusuz, deputy leader of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Islamic-rooted party, said Benedict's remarks were either "the result of pitiful ignorance" about Islam and its prophet or, worse, a deliberate distortion.

"He has a dark mentality that comes from the darkness of the Middle Ages. He is a poor thing that has not benefited from the spirit of reform in the Christian world," Kapusuz told Turkish state media. "It looks like an effort to revive the mentality of the Crusades."

"Benedict, the author of such unfortunate and insolent remarks, is going down in history for his words," Kapusuz added. "He is going down in history in the same category as leaders such as Hitler and Mussolini."

Even Turkey's staunchly pro-secular opposition party demanded the Pope apologize before his visit.

Another party led a demonstration outside Ankara's largest mosque, and a group of about 50 people placed a black wreath outside the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

In Iran, a top hardline cleric, Ahmad Khatami, said: "It is a pity that the leader of the world's Christians is so uninformed about Islam and speaks so rudely."

A powerful Sunni cleric in Iraq urged the government to expel the Vatican's representative over the comments.

And in Britain, the Ramadan Foundation compared the Pope unfavourably to his predecessor John Paul II.

"The late Pope John Paul II spent over 25 years to build bridges and links with the Muslim community. He showed the world that its perception of Islam was false and that we are peace-loving people," it said.

Algeria's National Liberation Front of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, called the remarks "deplorable."

"The Pope could have avoided letting himself be swept along by extremist trends and opinions, whose goal is to generate a war of civilisations and of religions," he added.

The New York Times, in an editorial on Saturday, said Benedict must issue a "deep and persuasive" apology for the quotes used during the speech.

"The world listens carefully to the words of any pope. And it is tragic and dangerous when one sows pain, either deliberately or carelessly," the Times said. "He needs to offer a deep and persuasive apology, demonstrating that words can also heal," it added.

The Times editorial said this was not the first time Benedict has fomented discord between Christians and Muslims.

It cited a 2004 comment, when he was the Vatican's top theologian, against Turkey's joining the European Union because as a Muslim country, it was "in permanent contrast to Europe."

"A doctrinal conservative, his greatest fear appears to be the loss of a uniform Catholic identity, not exactly the best jumping-off point for tolerance or interfaith dialogue," the editorial said. *Reuters, AFP, AP*

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Trunk is all that's left of sacada's memorabilia

From page A1

not as lucky.

Prudencio was 28 and Cecilio was 27 when they were recruited along with 13 other men to work in Hawaii by A.F. Judd of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association (HSPA).

They left Candon on Dec. 20, 1906, and sailed to Honolulu aboard the SS Doric. The 15 worked at the Olaa Plantation on the Big Island.

Unfortunately, the Sagun brothers could neither read nor write.

According to niece Florentina Sagun-Llanes, the Sagun brothers were not able to communicate with their family back home. No one heard from them until the mid-'50s when they received a letter with $10 enclosed from the brothers.

Too old to go home

The Sagun brothers said they were old and could no longer work the fields. Llanes said her uncles might have asked someone to write the letter for them.

A sacada from Ilocos Norte cared for the brothers until they died, relatives said.

According to the 1920 US Census, there were two Sagun families in Hawaii, including the brothers.

The first 15 sacada were: Simplicio Gironella and sons Mariano, Vicente, Francisco and Antonio, brothers Prudencio and Cecilio Sagun, brothers Mariano and Celestino Cortez, Julian Galmen, Martin de Jesus, Apolonio Ramos, Marcelino (a.k.a Feliciano) Bello, Filomeno Rebollido and Emilio Dasulla.

All of them returned to the Philippines except for the Saguns and Bello.

The Gironellas were the most fortunate of the lot. The HSPA brought Simplicio and Antonio back to the Philippines to work as recruiters.

Sugar capital

According to Purita Gironella Guirnada-Cabanela, her father Francisco came home after working 30 years in Hawaii and started buying tracts of land in Candon. His brothers followed suit.

The Gironellas planted sugarcane. Before the outbreak of World War II, Candon was known as the "sugar capital" of the north.

During the war, the Gironellas' house in the "poblacion" (town center) burned down, Cabanela said.

In Olaa, the Hawaiian government built a statue for the Candon sacada.

Collecting stories

"But sadly, the Hawaiian government failed to include Candon in their itinerary when [their officials] came here early this year," said Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson.

He said Candon officials were now trying to compile the stories of the original 15 sacada.

Singson said he would ask Filipinos in Hawaii with roots in Candon for stories and memorabilia of sacada relatives so they could display them in the Museo de Candon.

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Customs foils entry of P32-M worth of pork

THE BUREAU OF Customs has seized a P32-million shipment of frozen pork from China whose consignees were suspected of trying to evade the government's restrictions on importing meat from that country.

The 10 containers of pork were declared as frozen fish, giant squid and mackerel.

In a statement, the BOC said the shipments were consigned to Hap Chan Trading and Management Enterprises, Merkez General Merchandise and Vonrik Trading. The shipments arrived at the Manila International Container Port on the M/V Willi Rickmers, the Permai, the SITC Yokohama and the Philippine Star.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, in the same statement, said the government had imposed restrictions on meat imports from China due to the proliferation of bird flu and foot-and-mouth disease there.

He said police and customs agents had earlier seized another shipment declared as frozen mackerel but which also turned out to contain pork from China. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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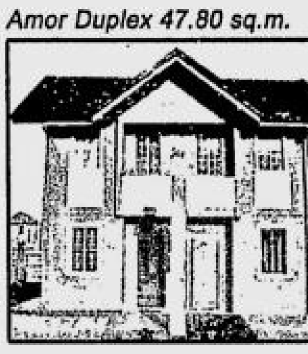
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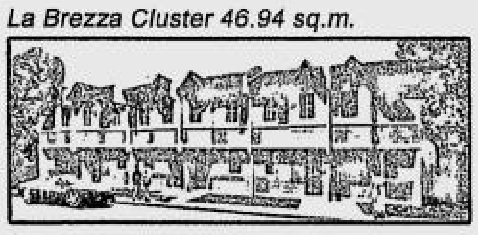
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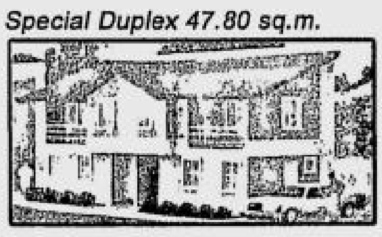
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Wind turns world's biggest flag into world's biggest rip

From page A1

was witnessed by 5,000 residents and foreign tourists.

For three hours, more than 300 residents and volunteers unfolded the giant flag, rolling down the banner and letting it lay on a trellis of aluminum cables suspended about three feet from the ground.

The edges of the flag were tied to the outermost cables. On its four corners, electric poles, more than one foot in diameter, served as anchors.

Historic event

As early as 5 a.m., volunteers trooped to the site to help carry the rolled-up Philippine flag uphill, bayanihan-style.

The historic event, however, was marred when the flag, made of 100 percent Taffeta nylon, suffered a large tear on its white triangle about halfway while it was being unfurled down to its base.

High school students, who were assigned to hold on to the upper right hand corner of the flag, said they had to let go of their grip as the windforce against the flag became stronger.

"We can't blame them. They had to release their grip rather than be dragged by the flag," said one of the seamstresses who supervised the unfolding at the top edge.

Unfazed

Officials of PG Tower Ministries International were unfazed.

"That was inevitable, God wanted it to happen. With its sheer size, it was seen all the way from heaven," said Pastor Fred Merejilla. "If you noticed, the torn portion was shaped like a heart. God is trying to show us that he continues to love this country, and He showed this through this flag."

The giant flag, according to the organizers, was meant to instill unity, nationalism and faith in God among Filipinos.

Aritao Mayor Ruben Sayo said the flag would be left at the site for at least three days upon the request of local residents, so they could "cherish the moment when they were part of history."

Sayo said tailors had already started repairing the damaged portion of the flag.

"With this achievement, our people have shown they're ready to unite and cooperate for any noble undertaking," he said.

Stampede

Three persons were hurt, including an 8-year-old boy, during a stampede. According to witnesses, people panicked after seeing a herd of cattle coming towards them.

The site serves as pasture land for the Galindez family.

Before the flag was torn, there was high drama at the base camp as spectators watched the wind form huge bulges on the flag while volunteers struggled to hold on.

Grace Galindez-Gupana, president of PG Tower Ministries International, went down on her knees in an emotional prayer and sobbed, pleading that God would stop the wind from blowing.

The Christian group, supported by a Manila-based producer of herbal food supplements, spent about P1 million to make the 2-hectare flag.

Too heavy

Earlier, Gupana planned to unfold the giant flag at the Sunken Garden at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

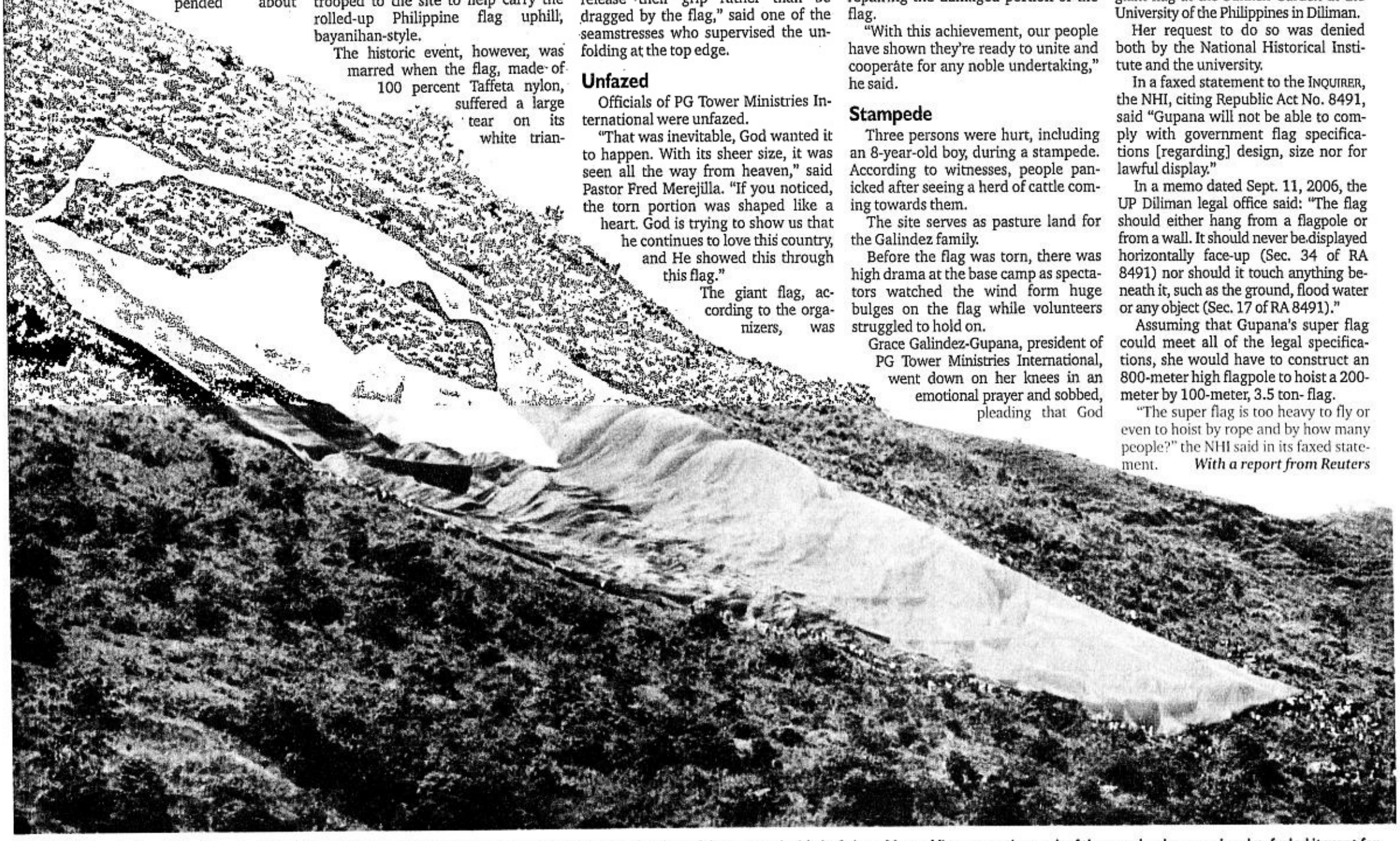
Her request to do so was denied both by the National Historical Institute and the university.

In a faxed statement to the INQUIRER, the NHI, citing Republic Act No. 8491, said "Gupana will not be able to comply with government flag specifications [regarding] design, size nor for lawful display."

In a memo dated Sept. 11, 2006, the UP Diliman legal office said: "The flag should either hang from a flagpole or from a wall. It should never be displayed horizontally face-up (Sec. 34 of RA 8491) nor should it touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, flood water or any object (Sec. 17 of RA 8491)."

Assuming that Gupana's super flag could meet all of the legal specifications, she would have to construct an 800-meter high flagpole to hoist a 200-meter by 100-meter, 3.5 ton- flag.

"The super flag is too heavy to fly or even to hoist by rope and by how many people?" the NHI said in its faxed statement. *With a report from Reuters*



A GAPING tear in the white triangle of what was envisioned to be the world's biggest flag spoils the view of the mountainside in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, as the work of thousands who sewed and unfurled it went for naught.

BEN MOSES EBREO / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

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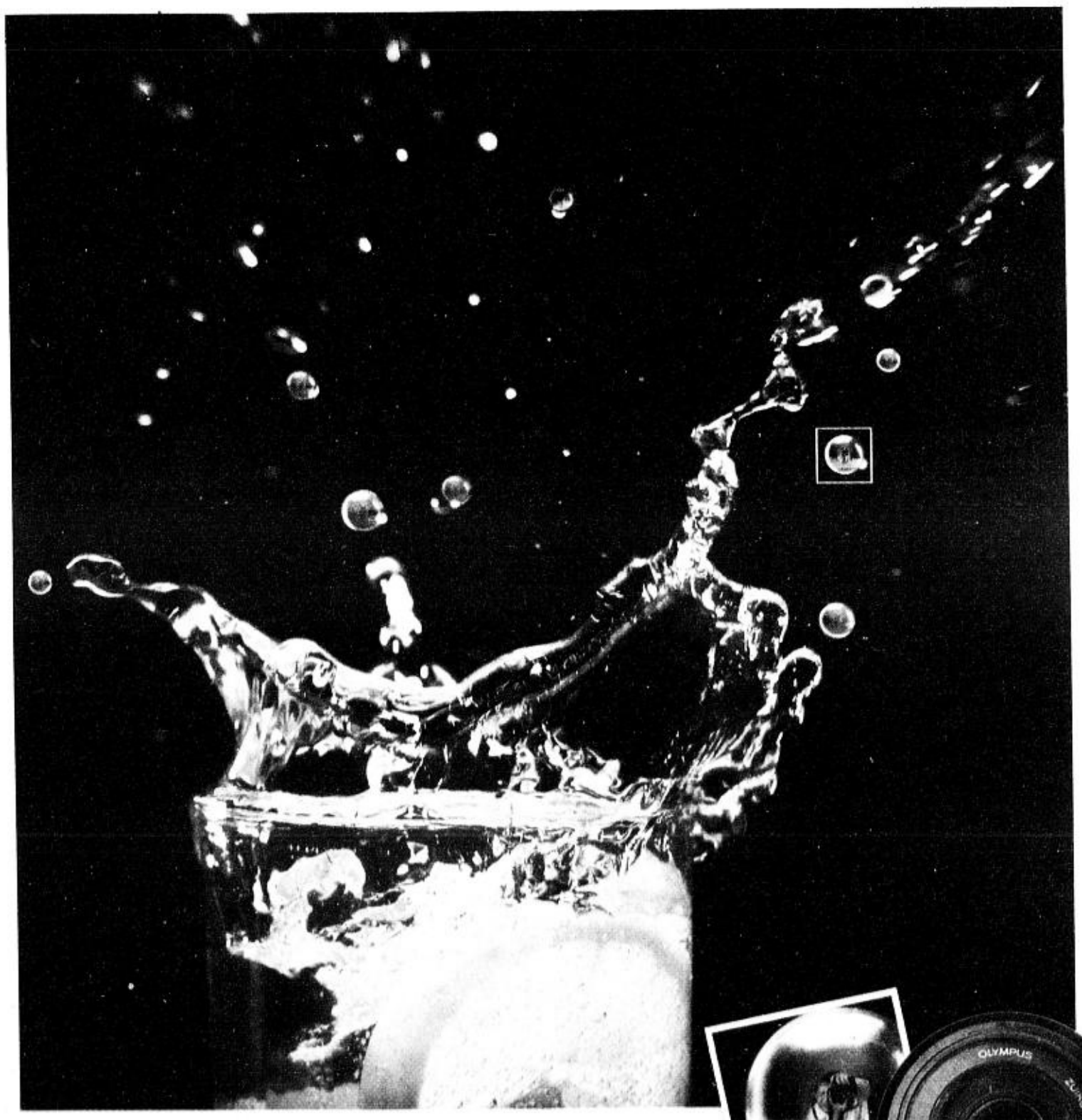

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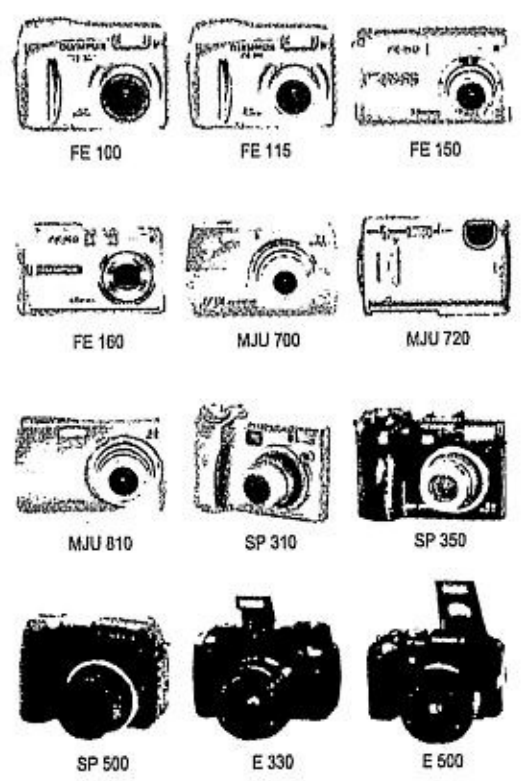

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The Eyes Of OLYMPUS

Hope, fear mix as desaparecidos' kin wait

RELATIVES OF THE MISSING Rogelio Calubad and his son Gabriel gather to celebrate his 53rd birthday at a restaurant in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

From page A1

Leopoldo, a member of the staff of Prudencio Calubid, yet another NDF consultant who is also among the *desaparecidos* (the disappeared), was to have met up with Carmen at 6:30 p.m. on June 24 at a supermarket in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

He was to have come from visiting some members of his family in Pampanga, and had told his wife to meet him because his failing eyesight did not serve him well once night fell.

He never showed up.

"When I was told that the store would close at 8 p.m., I went to [another store nearby] to continue waiting. I waited until 9:30 p.m.," Carmen said.

Three months later, on Sept. 12, Carmen served macaroni soup to human rights workers in Quezon City to mark her and Leopoldo's 23rd wedding anniversary.

But it was hardly a celebration.

"How do I answer to greetings of 'happy anniversary' when he's not around?" Carmen said.

She recalled that on every anniversary, she and her husband would go out on a date to celebrate.

There was no such date last week, just a small gathering of friends in a common agony of waiting for missing loved ones.

"It no longer matters if he'd show up alive or dead. I just want to see him again," Carmen told the INQUIRER.

Habeas corpus

Rogelio and Gabriel Calubad and Leopoldo Ancheta are among the subjects of petitions for habeas corpus filed by the families of persons allegedly taken away by government authorities for purported involvement in the communist underground.

Elizabeth and Carmen, along with several other wives and mothers of *desaparecidos*, frequent the offices of Karapatan—an organization that has itself been linked by the military to the communist insurgency—to follow up on their loved ones' respective cases.

In doing so, they manage to also provide moral support to one another.

"I don't believe the leftists are behind the disappearance of my husband and child," Elizabeth said emphatically when told that the communist movement could be behind the series of disappearances, as the military and police has been contending.

Apprehension

Recently, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commanding general of the Army, was quoted as saying that the missing activists might have gone underground and joined the New People's Army.

But Elizabeth said: "I was told that intelligence operatives were the ones who took them."

Karapatan public information officer Ruth Cervantes expressed apprehension that the Court of Appeals might soon dismiss the petitions for habeas corpus for the *desaparecidos*, including Rogelio and Gabriel Calubad and Leopoldo Ancheta.

The case for habeas corpus was filed on Aug. 3 before the Supreme Court, which referred it to the Court of Appeals.

Cervantes said three hearings had been held by the appellate court but that the respondents, including the recently retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, had never bothered to show up.

"They just submitted affidavits denying custody, but our lawyers said those weren't enough because it has to be proven and verified that the missing persons are indeed not with them," Cervantes said.

"It appears that there'd be no more hearing. We fear that the Court of Appeals might just dismiss their case because there's no public opinion on the matter," she said.

Tracking . . .

From page A1

ability to locate the four commissioners of the Presidential Commission on Good Government ordered arrested for snubbing a Senate inquiry.

The targets of Balajadia's team are Commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario.

They have evaded arrest for almost a week now since they, along with PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio, were cited in contempt by the committee on government corporations for refusing to testify in its investigation into the alleged dissipation of assets of the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp.

Only Sabio, his blood pressure fluctuating, is in Balajadia's custody.

Abcede has been giving media interviews left and right and one television network even interviewed Conti while he was accompanying his wife for a pregnancy checkup.

So where have Balajadia's men been looking?

A member of Balajadia's staff, who did not want to be identified, said they had checked out up to 40 addresses, including some interesting places.

Clubs and casinos

"We've been checking gyms, the three casinos (in Metro Manila) and some clubs because we heard they are going to those places," the Senate source said.

He declined to identify the clubs or the commissioner who might be frequenting them.

Sen. Richard Gordon defended the Senate's decision to launch the inquiry, saying the PCGG had not been made to account for its actions in the 20 years of its existence.

Balajadia said he was not ashamed that the media seemed to have beaten his men in the search.

"That's OK," Balajadia said. "The media (have their) own assets and resources."

Also subject to arrest are Philcomsat officials Benito Araneta, Philip Brodett, Manuel Andal, Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin Jr.

Helped by friends

Balajadia said he knew all "media contacts" of the commissioners' but that it was not part of his job to ask them for information on the officials' location.

"I believe in freedom of the press. I know all of you who are contacts of the PCGG, it's your job. But I would ask you to be careful because some people might be using you," said the former army general.

Balajadia said the fugitives also had a lot of help from friends.

Balajadia said his team had been working round the clock, running from one place to another to check out addresses and follow leads on the whereabouts of their quarry.

No day of rest

"Even this weekend, my men are doing the rounds just to bring these people to the Senate," Balajadia said.

The Senate is pressed for time to produce the defiant commissioners since the Supreme Court has set a hearing for Sept. 21 on Sabio's petition for a writ of habeas corpus challenging the Senate's arrest order.

The high court could either uphold the Senate or order it to free Sabio.

Sabio and the other commissioners claim they are beyond the reach of any judicial, legislative or administrative inquiry by virtue of Executive Order No. 1 issued by President Corazon Aquino, which created the PCGG.

'Not brave enough'

Gordon rejected Abcede's call for the Senate to stop its investigation into supposed anomalies in the PCGG's handling of sequestered companies until the Supreme Court had ruled on the validity of the arrest warrants.

"Who is he to tell me? He's not even brave enough to face the Senate," said Gordon, chair of the investigating committee.

Gordon said his committee would continue its hearing on Monday and daily afterwards, if necessary.

"I think a lot of people are happy that a sphinx called the PCGG is finally being unraveled," Gordon said.

At Friday's hearing, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile presented documents purportedly showing that PCGG nominees on the board of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. had abused their positions to "milk money" from the corporation.

Gordon said: "They seem to have gathered receipts to collect money. This is systematic milking of the corporations by no less than supposedly the watchers of the country's resources."

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, who appeared as counsel for some of the PHC executives, questioned the authenticity of the documents as well as the propriety of Enrile's act of hurling allegations despite his earlier statement inhibiting himself from the inquiry. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

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Energy security

EDITORIAL

PASSING ALMOST UNREPORTED AND UNREmarked was the symposium on biofuels held Friday at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. Organizers said its main objective was "to review the real issues and plan the framework on the use of biofuels in the Philippines." Invited to the gathering were various stakeholders from the government or private sector as well as entrepreneurs eyeing a role in the local production, processing and promotion of biofuels.

Aristotle Carandang, technical services division chief of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), a government agency and the symposium's lead organizer, said the meeting was expected to come up with concrete "recommendations" and a "road map" of "doable action plans pointing to specific direction."

The exercise is long overdue. Fueled by greater political instability in the Middle East, the price of crude oil almost touched $80 per barrel last August, before settling at about $64 this week.

When oil prices hit $36 per barrel in 2004, government officials and businessmen warned of an impending oil crisis. But it was only when prices shot up to $70 per barrel about a year ago that the Philippine government moved to cut down the country's heavy reliance on imported oil. Malacañang directed the adoption of energy conservation measures, including the use of at least a one-percent cocobiodiesel (B1) blend in all diesel-fueled government vehicles. In the House of Representatives and the Senate, bills were filed to promote the production and use of biofuels.

After that initial flurry of activities, the drive toward greater use of biofuels seems to have lost momentum. And very little has been been heard about the bills this year.

In her last State of the Nation Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo did not even make a reference to the oil crisis, a strange omission considering that just months before she was rallying the people to brace for a crisis saying, "This is not a simple test of our resiliency but a real challenge to economic survival."

What happens if oil prices suddenly shoot up to $100 per barrel as some industry analysts have forecast? It is hoped that last Friday's symposium served as a reminder to everyone that the problem remains urgent; and provided some fresh impetus to the efforts to get the biofuels program finally going.

As the symposium's objective implied, there are a thousand and one technical and economic issues that have yet to be resolved regarding the production, processing and use of biofuels. In fact, a lively debate has been going on about the merits and demerits of biofuels—or specifically ethanol—between the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) and the Philippine Fuel Ethanol Alliance (PFEA). Questions persist about the viability, practicability and even the wisdom of using biofuels. It is claimed, for example, that ethanol would damage the engines of cars with carburetors, requiring costly repairs. Ethanol has also been said to have a lower energy content and therefore less efficient. And because ethanol is principally extracted from agricultural crops, like sugar cane, sugar beet, corn, cassava, there are concerns that using it for fuel could compromise food security. There are also those who say that it may be more expensive to produce ethanol in the Philippines than to import oil.

On the other hand, Brazil has been using ethanol for almost three decades now, saving some $50 billion in oil imports and creating more than a million rural jobs. The United States, China, India and France are following suit. Brazil is even flying planes tanked up with ethanol. And Ford is selling cars that can run on ethanol-blended fuels here in the Philippines.

But one thing is certain: for Filipinos the search for alternative sources of energy goes beyond economics. It is, more than anything else, a matter of energy security. Let's say it's just a bonus that biofuels offer a clean, environment-friendly, indigenous and renewable alternative. But that is even a stronger reason to seek more viable and efficient biofuel technologies.

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Individual liberty and the national security

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN VALMONTE VS. DE VILLA, 178 SCRA 211, a 1987 case, the Supreme Court justified the checkpoints established in several parts of Metro Manila, causing INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo to express the popular opinion that the justices who decided it were "*isang katutak na bobo*." Justice Abraham F. Sarmiento and I did not feel referred to because we disagreed with the rest of our colleagues. I feel privileged to report my dissenting opinions on the original decision and the denied motion for reconsideration as follows:

"I dissent. The sweeping statements in the majority opinion are as dangerous as the checkpoints it would sustain and fraught with serious threats to individual liberty. The bland declaration that individual rights must yield to the demands of national security ignores the fact that individual rights are intended precisely to limit the authority of the State even if asserted on the ground of national security.

"What is worse is that the searches and seizures are peremptorily pronounced to be reasonable even without proof of probable cause and much less the required warrant. The improbable cause is that they are aimed at 'establishing an effective territorial defense, maintaining peace and order, and providing an atmosphere conducive to the social, economic and political development of the National Capital Region.'

"For these purposes, every individual may be stopped and searched at random and at any time simply because he excites the suspicion, caprice, hostility or malice of the officers manning the checkpoints, on pain of arrest or, worse, being shot to death if he resists.

"I have no quarrel with a policeman flashing a light inside a parked vehicle on a dark street, as a routine measure of security and curiosity. But the case at bar is different. Military officials are systematically stationed at strategic checkpoints to actively ferret out suspicious criminals by detaining and searching any individual who in their opinion might impair the social, economic and political development of the National Capital Region. And we are not even under martial law.

"Unless we are vigilant of our rights, we may find ourselves back to the dark era of the truncheon and the barbed wire, with the Court itself a captive of its own complaisance and sitting at the death-bed of liberty."

On the motion for reconsideration, I wrote:

"I reiterate my original dissent and add the following observations.

"The majority would justify the checkpoints on the ground of rampant criminality, e.g. the failed coup, the sparrow killings, murders, sex crimes, drug abuse, smuggling, etc. I was not aware that the failure of the authorities to suppress crime was an excuse to suspend the Bill of Rights. It has always been my impression that even criminals, and more so the innocent, are entitled to the right against unreasonable searches and seizures.

"The protection of the security of the State is a convenient pretext of the police to suppress individual rights. Constitutional shortcuts should not be allowed in a free regime where the highest function of authority is precisely to exalt liberty.

"The *ponencia* says that the Constitution is not violated because the inspection of the vehicle is limited to a 'visual search.' Assuming that this is all the search entails, it suffers from the additional defect of inefficaciousness, making it virtually useless. It did not prevent the staging of the December 1 coup, where the rebels used all kinds of high-powered weapons that were not detected by a 'visual search.'

"Under Art. III, Sec. 2 of the Constitution, probable cause is determined 'personally by the judge,' not by a soldier or a policeman. It is not for a peace officer to decide when a warrantless search and seizure may be made save in the exceptional instances allowed, as when a crime is being committed or before or after its commission. I can hardly believe that the majority is offering this exception as a continuing situation to justify the **regular** warrantless search at the checkpoints.

"It is easy to say that 'where abuse marks the operation of a checkpoint, the citizen is not helpless.' Let us at least be realistic. This Court would be the first to dismiss the complaint if not supported by hard evidence, which we know is not easily come by. The remedy, in my view, is to remove the source of the evil instead of leaving it unchecked and then simply suggesting a cure which is not even effective. It is like inoculating a patient after exposing him to contagion."

I thought it advisable to publish the above remarks in view of the proliferation of checkpoints again not only in Metro Manila but elsewhere in the country. The excuse is the protection of the national security through the diminution of individual liberty, which should be the highest ideal and guaranty in the democratic society.

Me, me, me!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I HEARD A STORY ABOUT THREE MEN SITting in a park bench. The man in the center was asleep, while the two others beside him were going through the motions of fishing, seriously casting, jerking and winding their imaginary reels. A policeman approached them and shook the man in the middle and asked: "Are these two nuts friends of yours? Get them out of here."

"Right away officer," said the man, as he began rowing vigorously.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 8, 27-35), Jesus tells us that whoever wishes to come after Him must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Him. One must be some kind of a nut to be a follower of Jesus, for following Jesus involves willingness to lose one's life. Small wonder why Jesus does not have too many true friends and real followers. The so-called friends and followers are aplenty, but dedicated friends and true followers? Not too many. Which are you?

* * *

Every once in a while, we are elated to hear of people, mostly the little ones and the poor ones, who go out of their way and take the pains of returning money that is not theirs. Of course, we also hear of big-hearted millionaires and billionaires who give away their riches for the poor. But, that is only every once in a while. Most of the time, we are saddened to hear of selfish people who cheat, lie and even kill to get what is not rightly theirs. What is sickening is when we hear of powerful people, who already have so much, continuing to hoard and amass ill-gotten wealth and getting away with it, all in the name of public service and love of country—and for some, even in the name of Jesus!

* * *

Some people actually believe that they can make nuts out of all of us. I mean, they really think they can fool everyone with their cheating, lying and stealing, and they can continue doing so. In time, in God's sweet time (Please God, soon!), may the true friends and real followers of Christ reign and serve in our land.

* * *

Anyone who wishes to be a follower of Christ must renounce his/her **"me first"** attitude. We see this attitude in traffic, in waiting lines and even in the Holy Communion. I am reminded of the story about a man, who upon seeing a crowd that had gathered around a victim of an accident, bullied his way through, up to the front by shouting: "Let me pass. I am a relative of the victim!" When the crowd parted, behold, lying on the road was a dead pig run over by a car.

* * *

There is another attitude that must be renounced by a true follower of Christ, and that is the "me only" attitude. Some people think and actually act as if they were different and exceptional, and that others are children of the lesser gods. A story that comes to mind is that of a white woman who, at the height of apartheid in South Africa, refused to be seated with a black man in a plane. The steward said that there was one free seat in the first class section. As she arrogantly stood up to transfer seat, the steward said: "You can keep this seat to yourself. He goes to first class."

* * *

One more attitude that must be renounced by a true follower of Christ is the **"me always"** attitude. Some people think, and actually behave, as if they were the greatest and the "mostest" in everything, as if the whole world revolved around them, feeling indispensable and irreplaceable. This reminds me of a story of a politician who visited a home for the aged. Upon his arrival, he noticed an old man who was not clapping his hands like the rest. Whereupon he arrogantly asked the old man: "Do you know who I am?"

The old man stared at him and then said: "No. Perhaps you can ask the nurse. They keep our records."

* * *

A true follower of Christ must have a change of attitude from "me first" to "others first"; from "me only" to "others also"; from "me always" to "others always." This shift, this conversion from oneself as the center to others as the center, is what Jesus asks of you and me as we follow Him on the road that leads to life. Denying oneself is allowing oneself to be led by God and to be displaced by others.

* * *

Please join us in a "Healing Mass" at the Redemptorist Church in Cebu City. This is organized by Fr. Ramon Espuelas, SVD, mission secretary of SVD Southern Province. Thirteen-year-old Fatima Soriano will join this Mass for the benefit of our 138 Filipino SVD missionaries working in some 40 countries all over the world. For inquiries, please call (032)2536341 or (02)7217457.

* * *

Always remember that God only makes happy endings; if it's not happy, then it's not yet the end. If you're struggling, take courage for it's not done yet. Trust and wait, strengthen your faith and pray. Get daily suggestions of Prayer, text ON PRAYER to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, change my "me first, me only and me always" attitude to "others first, others also and others always" attitude. Amen.

Come home, Joc-joc

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IT APPEARS THAT DURING HER TRIP TO Europe, much of President Macapagal-Arroyo's time was devoted to addressing concerns raised by various European government officials on the rash of unsolved murders of journalists and Left-leaning political activists in the Philippines. We should keep in mind that many countries in Europe have representatives in the Philippines. It is likely that their reports on this issue have influenced the attitude of their governments.

The Melo Commission was created just before her trip to Europe. Some people are wondering if the commission came about mainly for the benefit of the European audience.

* * *

It is difficult to figure out why Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, former agriculture undersecretary and a Rotary bigwig, refuses to return to the Philippines. He is presently detained by US Immigration authorities at the Kenosha County Detention Center in Wisconsin some 90 kilometers from Chicago after the US Embassy in Manila cancelled his B1/B2 visa.

Before his appointment as agriculture undersecretary, Bolante was very active in Rotary affairs, eventually becoming treasurer of Rotary International with offices in Evanston, Illinois. It was his close friendship with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in Rotary that led to his appointment in government before the 2004 presidential elections. Unfortunately, it appears that he was placed in this particular position for a specific purpose. According to Senate investigation reports on the misuse of fertilizer funds in the department, Bolante was the "architect" and "brains" in the diversion of P728 million in fertilizer money to Ms Arroyo's campaign.

Instead of defending himself at the Senate hearings, he ignored all invitations and subpoenas by the body and went abroad. He claimed that the Senate hearings were politically motivated and that he would not get a fair shake from opposition-minded senators.

Joc-joc is now a detainee in a foreign land. If reports are accurate, he is wearing the standard prison garb and partakes of the usual fare given to those confined at this government facility. What a far cry from the lifestyle that he had in the Philippines where he made quite a fortune selling memorial plans and funeral caskets.

For whom is he making all these sacrifices? Certainly not for his family. In seeking asylum in the United States, he claims that NPA hit squads are out to kill him should he return to the Philippines. Actually he is more valuable to their cause alive than dead. He is also spending no small fortune enlisting the services of one of the largest immigration law firms in the United States in his bid for temporary liberty and asylum. Who is helping him foot the bill? Let us hope the payments do not come from the fertilizer fund of our farmers.

Come home, Joc-joc. The truth will set you free.

* * *

This is the third instance in recent years that US government action has helped bring about some form of justice in our system, which Philippine authorities have been unable to provide for one reason or another.

The first was the case of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former AFP comptroller. It was the discovery of undeclared foreign exchange being brought into the United States by members of the Garcia family that led to the court martial and conviction of the general. The report by US Customs authorities in Honolulu blew the case wide open with wide-ranging repercussions for the military organization. It led to the abolition of the AFP comptroller office and put an end to the much-abused practice of "conversion" in the Armed Forces. Garcia still faces charges before the Sandiganbayan, but all these could not have happened without the report of the US Customs.

The second case involved a police official who was facing double murder charges in the Philippines. Former PNP Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino had been implicated in the November 2000 murder of publicist Bubby Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito. Shortly thereafter, Aquino fled to the United States along with Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao. Last July, Aquino pleaded guilty to possessing secret documents containing information on US confidential intelligence sources and methods. He is due to be sentenced this coming Oct. 30 and faces 70 to 120 months in prison.

Now we have the case of Bolante. He was able to avoid arrest by the Senate, moving in and out of the country as he pleased. His passport was not cancelled by the Department of Foreign Affairs in spite of the actions of the Senate to have him testify on the fertilizer fund anomaly. It was the US government's cancellation of his visa which brought him to the detention facility in Wisconsin. According to lawyers familiar with the case, the reason for the revocation of his visa had to do with what is known as the "No Safe Haven" program under US Presidential Directive 212. The program denies foreigners who are suspected of corrupt practices from traveling to the United States. Again, it was US government action which brought about a situation our own authorities seemed eager to avoid.

Perhaps, when President Manuel L. Quezon declared he would rather have a government run like hell by Filipinos than a government run like heaven by Americans, he didn't realize that 60 years after gaining independence from the United States, we would still be relying heavily on US government actions to correct our self-inflicted problems.

Trade-offs and hurt feelings

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT WOULD BE GRATIFYING TO BE PROVEN right, but in the ongoing trial of the Subic rape case, I would really rather be proven wrong.

The other day, the mother of "Nicole," the complainant in the case, told the media that the lead prosecutor, senior state prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos, talked to her in July and proposed a settlement of the case, warning her that if their family refused the Marines' offer, the sailors' acquittal might be used as a trade-off to win asylum for Joc-joc Bolante.

Bolante is right now undergoing hearings on his bid for political asylum in the United States, which would allow him to evade Senate summons requiring him to testify on what has been dubbed as the "fertilizer fund scam."

This is the same scenario I had speculated on, a while back, based on nothing more than puzzlement at the American authorities' sudden interest in Bolante. Months before Bolante's arrest in California, the Americans had been hemming and hawing on taking the former agriculture undersecretary under custody. Then all of a sudden, they allow Bolante to board a flight from Korea to America, then cancel his visa upon arrival. What gives?

This would have been all feverish speculation if the prosecutors in charge of bringing the accused Marines to justice didn't seem to be trying to deliberately lose the case. Double what gives?

* * *

IN AN EMOTIONAL meeting with reporters covering the trial, Nicole's mother accused the prosecution team of "toying" with them. She observed how the relatively junior prosecutor Nolibien Quiambao did little more than reiterate certain points in the testimony of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith during the "cross." At one point, Judge Benjamin Pozon, who would certainly know more about courtroom procedures than the average observer, was even constrained to ask Quiambao: "Are you conducting a cross?"

At this point, recounts someone who was in the courtroom, "Nicole was in tears and (her mother) was very upset," and both prevailed upon Nicole's private lawyer Evalyn Ursua to approach the judge and request if she could ask further questions. This expectedly drew "protests and jeers" from the defense panel, but the lead prosecutor was of no help at all, showing by her body language that she was irked. She then requested a recess and agreed to pass on Ursua's questions to Quiambao who, of course, botched those questions, too.

Two days later, when a defense state witness was scheduled to testify, the overwhelming forces ranged against Nicole seemed painfully obvious. The defense panel, which has tripled in number since the start of the trial, was present in full force, while there was only one prosecutor present, with even Ursua, who had indicated she would not be present because she wasn't feeling well, absent.

It was at this point that Nicole and her mother, along with some supporters, decided to walk out of the courtroom and proceeded to the Department of Justice to submit a request to have the members of the prosecution panel, save for one, replaced. As Nicole told reporters in a press conference: "*Napuno na kami.*" (We've had it up to here.)

* * *

PERHAPS it shouldn't surprise us anymore that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, looking as if he had swallowed a stale fish ball, told the media that not only was he "standing by" his prosecutors (a laudable stance, actually), he also doubted Nicole's perception of things. "I hope she is not imagining again," he remarked, implying that Nicole had also "imagined" the rape.

Actually, the perception that the government appears bent on winning acquittal for the four Marines stems not so much from the performance of the prosecutors assigned to the case as from the public utterances of our justice secretary.

Even before the case went to trial, Gonzalez had said he wanted the charges against three of the four accused to be downgraded, but that he felt constrained to include them in the rape charge to "appease the mob." And as a report in this paper noted: "From the start, Gonzalez had expressed disbelief of Nicole's claim of rape. At one point, he even told reporters that she might withdraw her complaint against the four US Marines."

Maybe, that's where the scenario painted by Nicole's mother originated from.

* * *

THERE are lots of hurt feelings making the rounds in the Nicole case. The prosecutors are understandably hurt, to say the least, that their competence and motivations have been brought to question. (De los Santos has threatened a "reprisal" when the hearing resumes tomorrow.) But the way to fend off the accusations is to conduct a more rigorous prosecution and do their best to prepare an airtight case.

I am puzzled, for instance, at what observers report as the DOJ team's "hostility" toward Ursua, who is lawyering for Nicole for free. The prosecutors have accused her of being "militant," and of masterminding Nicole's walk-out and complaint to the DOJ. But what's wrong with being a "militant" lawyer, if it means adding commitment and understanding of feminist issues to the preparation of the case? The Supreme Court, after all, is even now promoting "gender fairness" in the training of judges and prosecutors.

But all these hurt feelings are nothing compared to what Nicole and her family must be feeling now. Nicole has opened the details of her life and her behavior to public scrutiny in a quest to win justice for herself—and for all other Filipino women. There is no clear "victory" for the rape survivor who goes public with her charges—the trauma and the scrutiny will continue well into the future. But it would be a national shame if defeat in the courtroom comes as a result not of a clear resolution of "guilt" or "innocence," but of political accommodation.

Marcos and Arroyo

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO, THE THEN INCUMbent president, Ferdinand Marcos, invoked an obscure provision in the 1935 Constitution to free his presidency from basic constitutional restraints. The imposition of martial law, which was meant to preserve the State, was supposed to last only for the duration of the imminent threat to public order. But Marcos shrewdly stretched the meaning and scope of emergency powers—and hijacked an unfinished constitution—so he could legally remain president for life.

In the years that followed, Marcos referred to his government as a "constitutional authoritarianism." The legitimation of martial rule came rather quickly and seemed to be the least of his worries. By capturing the Constitutional Convention of 1971, he was able to control the final version of the new constitution. Instead of submitting this custom-made document to a plebiscite for ratification, he convened the so-called "barangay assemblies" and used their simulated approval of the new constitution as proof of its ratification. In one of its lowest moments as a key institution, the Supreme Court pragmatically acquiesced in this Marcosian maneuver.

Doubtless, Marcos desired nothing less than to rule indefinitely. But even his most strident critics would concede that he had a clear vision for the country, although they staunchly opposed it. Apart from the corruption, which he centralized, the actions that Marcos took in the first few years of authoritarian rule showed that he had thought about the nation's problems thoroughly. He filled his Cabinet with credible technocrats, issued decrees that reorganized the economy, and drew a long-term path for sustained economic growth.

In his long years as a professional politician, Marcos had gained an insight into the general predisposition of Filipinos—that they did not care enough about liberty to risk their lives defending it. For him, civil liberties and political rights had become so meaningless to most Filipinos because of their poverty that they would exchange them anytime for the promise of food and jobs. That many people went underground to fight his regime shows that he was wrong, but the fact that he lasted more than 13 years as a dictator suggests that he wasn't entirely wrong. Had Marcos succeeded in turning the Philippine economy around and improving the economic situation of the average Filipino, it would have been impossible to overthrow him.

Though the circumstances are not the same, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo finds herself today in an analogous situation. Because of the legitimacy problem that has hounded her since she assumed the presidency in 2001, she has had to fight every inch of the way just to survive. But every action she takes to protect her position only impels her toward an indefinite extension of her powers. Unlike Marcos, she cannot solve this problem by declaring martial law. The framers of the present Constitution virtually took that option away by chaining it to a wall of conditionalities. In February this year, Ms Arroyo tested the public's mood for martial law by declaring a state of national emergency. The public reaction was so strong that she was forced to lift it after only one week.

Unable to draw on the unconditional support of a unified armed forces, GMA had to buy additional support elsewhere. To no one's surprise, she has found needy cooperators in the lower house of Congress and in the local governments. Unlike martial law, the option provided by transactional politics is not only more costly, it is also messier because of the sheer number of individuals one has to deal with. But like Marcos in 1972, Ms Arroyo's objective is the same—to capture State institutions, eliminate the opposition and rule indefinitely.

Ms Arroyo clearly intends to dictate the basic content of the Charter revisions. Whether this is done through a people's initiative or by a constituent assembly, or by calling a constitutional convention, is important only in so far as these options offer variable spaces for intervening in the process. The people's initiative is the easiest to manipulate. In a constituent assembly, Ms Arroyo has to contend with the personal ambitions of her own political allies. With a Con-Con, there is a big possibility that the convention will be dominated by her political enemies.

In any event, whichever method is adopted, so long as the public's attention is drawn to Charter change rather than to regime change, Ms Arroyo is assured of staying in the presidency until 2010. By that time, she will have completed nine years in the presidency—not a mean feat for someone who has never been properly elected to the position. The question, however, is: Will she relinquish power in 2010 and fade gracefully into private life?

My guess is that she will not. Ms Arroyo, who has violated every norm of civilized politics during her presidency, will be hard-pressed to keep herself in power for as long as she can, if only to stay out of jail. I do not believe anyone can spit on the basic rights and freedoms of a nation, and wreck its cherished institutions, and expect to get away with it. Not Marcos, not Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Mining's influence on local elections

COMMENTARY

Cielito C. Goño
Institute on Church and Social Issues

MAYORS MAY BE THE KEY GATEKEEPERS OF MINING resources in the Philippines. This was what I found out when I visited the islands of Homonhon and Manicani in Eastern Samar. In these islands, mining companies are actively supported by the mayor of the municipality of Guiuan, despite a 2003 provincial ordinance declaring an indefinite moratorium on large-scale mining in the whole province. This holds interesting implications for local electoral politics in municipalities that are the planned sites of mining projects.

The Philippines has severely conflicting national policies governing the use of its natural resources. One area of conflict is environment protection. On the national level, the 1995 Mining Act upturned Philippine mining policy from one of tolerance to active promotion. On the other hand, under the 1992 Network of Integrated Protected Areas Act, protected areas are closed to mining.

This has led to conflicting local policy applications. In Samar, for example, 41 mining companies reportedly hold claims that fall within the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) established in 2003 by Presidential Proclamation 442. The SINP area overlaps with a declared Bauxite Mineral Reservation. There is also interest in chromite and nickel extraction within the SINP. In the southernmost end of Samar, the Guiuan Protected Seascape, defined in Presidential Proclamation 469 of 1994, overlaps with areas that experience siltation from the operations of Hinatuan Mining Co. in Manicani Island, and of Heritage Resources & Mining Corp. in historic Homonhon.

In the face of conflicting national policies, the different local government tiers seem to have free rein on which policies to uphold over others. Take the October 2003 ordinance passed by the Eastern Samar provincial board, which we mentioned earlier. It declares an indefinite moratorium on large-scale mining in the province, upholding the policy of environmental protection over that of mining promotion. However, Guiuan Mayor Annaliza Kwan does not seem to be bound by this provincial ordinance, choosing to uphold the promotion of mining instead of environmental protection. It is her support that allows and facilitates the interests of mining companies in Manicani and Homonhon.

Mayor Kwan has previously argued that the whole point of continuing the town's engagement with mining companies is to draw the benefits that they promised for the communities that host them. Perhaps she is simply making the best of the situation, considering that irreparable environmental damage has already been done.

On the opposite side of her pragmatism are the classic, nagging questions on whether any of these benefits would be worth the environmental damage that generally comes with mining (deforestation, dumping of waste rock and mine tailings, and water pollution from toxic chemicals, acid drainage and silt that cover corals and fish-spawning beds).

There is also the question of whether anyone has ever been able to associate mining with the key development goal of poverty alleviation in these islands. The companies have had their hands on chromite and nickel mining claims there since the 1980s. These are claims secured in the 1970s by other companies before them. If poverty alleviation could be achieved through a mining-led development strategy, perhaps this should be evident by now. Instead, the people of Manicani and Homonhon today typically depend on subsistence-level fishing and farming, as they always have in the past.

Ironically, the anti-mining residents of Manicani and Homonhon actively campaigned for Kwan when she ran for mayor, not knowing she would eventually try a manipulative dance with mining companies, albeit with professed good intentions.

The power of the Guiuan mayor to facilitate the interests of the two mining companies, despite the province-level ban, implies that mining companies could have a heavy interest in the outcomes of elections for mayor where they intend to operate. It is not difficult to imagine how mining industry money can flow to determine such outcomes in its favor.

After several rounds of local elections in which special interests in mining would play a prominent role, it is not difficult to imagine as well how pro-mining local politicians would tend to flourish in their careers and rise to regional and national positions of power. Over time, a larger proportion of the Philippines' elected politicians could have a more decisively pro-mining bias. Mining industry interests would gain greater, more entrenched protection.

In this scenario, it would be wise for pro-environment groups to brace themselves and move toward stronger participation in local electoral politics in order to offset the impact of special mining interests. The mining issue should be built as the determining electoral issue for voters in areas that host mining projects. That is, voters must be made especially aware that they should elect only candidates who reflect their own sentiments on hosting mining projects in their barangay, municipality or province.

Mass media also must respond with more discriminating and intelligent coverage of elections in municipalities and provinces that are the sites of different mining projects. That the emerging scene is one of special interests capturing political power should not escape the reporters of TV, print and radio who would be sent to cover these local elections.

Ideally, in a strong democracy, electoral outcomes reflect the will of the people. Unfortunately, in many instances, Philippine elections become the tool of special interests. If people in a mining area demonstrate informed consent to host mining projects, then let them elect local officials who would facilitate the operations of mining companies. But if local people do not give informed consent and, in fact, severely oppose mining activities in their localities, then pro-mining local candidates should not win just because their campaigns are better-funded.

THEY SAID

A flock's shepherd

"I don't think a teacher can handle supervision in a class with more than 60 pupils, he's no longer a teacher but a shepherd of a flock."

—Allan de Guzman of the University of Santo Tomas Center for Educational Research and Development

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

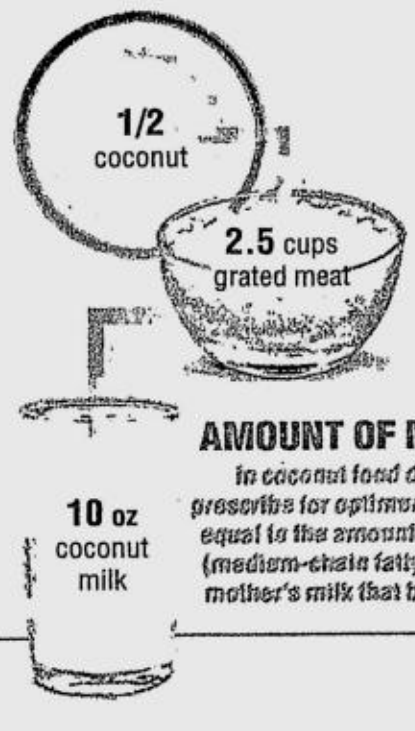
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Docs provide the science on VCO

WHITE OIL THAT HEALS

DURING THE DECADES-LONG CAMPAIGN OF the American soybean industry against tropical oils, Filipinos were made to believe that the coconut—oil and cream abundant in the Philippine diet—was bad for one's health. Only when American biochemists began uncovering the dangers of transfats in commercially processed soybean, corn and canola oils did consumers all over the world take a second look at the once disparaged tropical oil.

With the dangers posed by deadly viruses like HIV, SARS and H5N1, the Philippines has emerged as one of the countries least affected in the region. To this, HIV clinical study author Dr. Conrado Dayrit puts forward the question, "Could it be the coconut diet?"



AMOUNT OF MCFAs

In coconut food doctors prescribe for optimum health is equal to the amount of MCFAs (medium-chain fatty acids) in mother's milk that babies get

Thus began the return of coconut oil to the dining table. Filipinos went further by going back to their forefathers' traditional manner of extracting food oil naturally from fresh coconuts to produce white edible oil and relabeled it virgin coconut oil or VCO.

Amid the hype, are Filipinos swallowing the truth about coconut oil? But that is not for oil producers to tell consumers. In a medical forum organized last month by the nongovernment group VCO Philippines, at least four noted Filipino doctors—a pediatrician, a dermatologist, a cardiologist-pharmacologist and a nutrition support specialist—have come out to exhort the once moribund industry, "You produce the right oil, we provide the science."

Dr. Arturo C. Ludan

Pediatrician-gastroenterologist

VIRGIN COCONUT OIL (VCO) is immunoprotective in children, superior to Vitamin C.

The fatty acids that make up coconut oil so effective against germs are the same ones nature has put into mother's milk to protect infants.

Clinical studies show VCO's significant role in pediatrics as a source of energy, an immune system booster, a local antiseptic and an anti-inflammatory.

Dr. E. Gabriel Martinez conducted a triple-blind, randomized-controlled trial on premature infants who showed a trend toward higher weight gain per day, shorter duration of intervention and fewer adverse events among the treatment group supplemented with 0.5 ml of VCO per ounce of body weight.

Another study by Dr. Daisy E. Davila to determine the effect of VCO on recurrent respiratory infection among pediatric patients in Pasay General Hospital ages 1-5 years showed that VCO supplementation reduces the incidence by 67 percent and the duration by 62 percent.

In my clinical practice, I applied the studies of Doctors Conrado Dayrit, Vermen Rowell and C. E. Isaacs in prescribing VCO as a local antiseptic to keep a nursing mother's nipple relatively sterile against microbes, and to treat viral infections in children such as herpes simplex (which can cause infections of the mouth, eyes, female genital tract and brain) and Epstein-Barr as cause of infectious mononucleosis, influenza A and measles virus.

But what the pediatrician would like to explore about VCO is its anti-inflammatory potential in treating allergic disorders like asthma and rhinitis.

Dr. Vermen Verallo-Rowell

Dermatologist-medical researcher

VCO IS AN AFFORDABLE, medically acceptable alternative for those who cannot afford conventional antibiotics.

Medium-chain triglycerides of mainly lauric acid becomes active antiseptics when it breaks down into lauric acid monoglycerides or monolaurin in coconut milk (as well as in mother's milk).

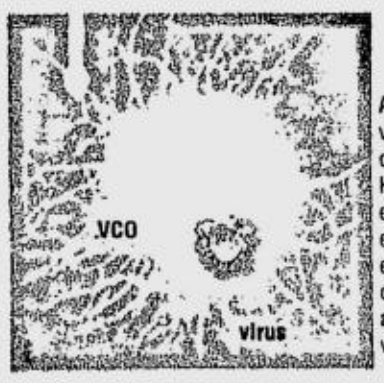
With molecules small enough to be directly absorbed through the intestinal wall into the bloodstream, monolaurin travels around the body to act as an antiseptic.

Results from my clinical studies tally with those of Dr. Conrado Dayrit's HIV study. While Dayrit identifies monolaurin as having brought down the HIV viral counts in the study, there are more monoglycerides from the VCO's other medium-chain fatty acids that are anti-infective.

A study shows monolaurin (in gel) is comparable to alcohol. It can kill common disease-causing bacteria and fungi cultured from the hands of nurses after duty. But unlike alcohol, monolaurin is gentle to the skin and can be taken internally. When taken internally, it does not kill off the desirable intestinal bacteria but acts only on potentially disease-forming microorganisms.

In yet another study, monolaurin proved as effective as the most popular antibiotics in killing bacteria from already infected skin. In one case, it treated and prevented the recurrence of a drug-resistant herpes simplex.

Based on my clinical practice at Makati Medical Center, nutritional supplements of VCO lower the severity of psoriasis secondary infection and atopic dermatitis cases.



A drop of raw virgin coconut oil, captured in Kirlian photo emitting high energy, effectively overpowers a lipid-coated virus

Broad-spectrum antimicrobial

Inside the body, the medium-chain triglycerides convert into monoglycerides to exert antimicrobial effects by disrupting the lipid or fat membranes of viruses, bacteria, yeasts and fungi.

Mimicking the fatty acids in a microbe's membrane, coconut oil confuses the unsuspecting microbe, causing it to spill its genetic contents and become easy prey for the body's white blood cells to consume.

Because MCFAs perform a physical action that is not gene-dependent or enzyme-related, microbes do not develop resistance to it, the way they do toward antibiotics

Virgin coconut oil is 64%

Medium-chain

shorter carbon chains make smaller fat molecules easily digestible, stimulate metabolism, provide energy more quickly

Saturated

makes oil stable enough not to turn rancid easily in oxidation or heat. Neither does it create trans fatty acids.

Fatty acids

combine with their monoglycerides in a synergistic antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, and antiprotozoal action

Dr. Conrado Dayrit

Cardiologist-professor emeritus

VCO PREVENTS HEART DISEASE. Coconut oil, like other vegetable oils, has no cholesterol.

In fact, VCO intake in substantial amounts keeps cholesterol low, between 170 and 200 milligrams per deciliter, by promoting the conversion of cholesterol into pregnenolone to be utilized in the production of adrenal and sex hormones. VCO's cholesterol-lowering effect is a regulatory action since it can also beneficially raise cholesterol when it is too low for the body's needs, thus maintaining the healthy ratio between low density lipoprotein-cholesterol and high density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL-C).

On the other hand, the lowering of total cholesterol by the omega-6 oils (corn and soybean oils) is not beneficial since it also lowers the good HDL-C, subsequently depositing the lost oxidized cholesterol in the arterial plaque, which could clog the arteries.

While statins block cholesterol synthesis, this does not address the inflammatory nature of atherosclerosis. VCO does, having the ability to kill major types of atherogenic bacteria and viruses in the blood while exhibiting anti-inflammatory action in synergy with omega-3 fatty acids.

The saturated fats-heart scare is a big fat lie because it covers up the fact that polyunsaturated oils are the sources of inflammatory prostaglandins, allergic leuko-trienes, and blood clot-inducing thromboxane. And when partially hydrogenated, polyunsaturated oils are converted into trans fatty acids that are even more atherogenic.

For more information, read his book "The Truth About Coconut Oil" (available at National Book Stores).

Dr. Eliza Perez Francisco

Family physician-nutrition support

IN MY CLINICAL PRACTICE AT ST. Luke's Medical Center, I use VCO for the elderly in relation to physiologic changes that occur with aging.

VCO can address sensory losses, tooth and gum problems, changes in the intestinal tract, changes in the immune system, changes in body composition, and changes that come with menopause and andropause.

With age, the intestinal wall loses strength and elasticity, thus slowing down motility. Two tablespoons or 30 ml of VCO at bedtime ought to regulate constipation. VCO also has a soothing effect on the sore anal area of hemorrhoids.

For arthritis, VCO used as massage oil or taken orally can relieve aches and joint pains.

Bedridden patients who require tube feeding could use nutrition support by blending VCO with tube feed or with commercial milk formulas in consultation with a dietitian.

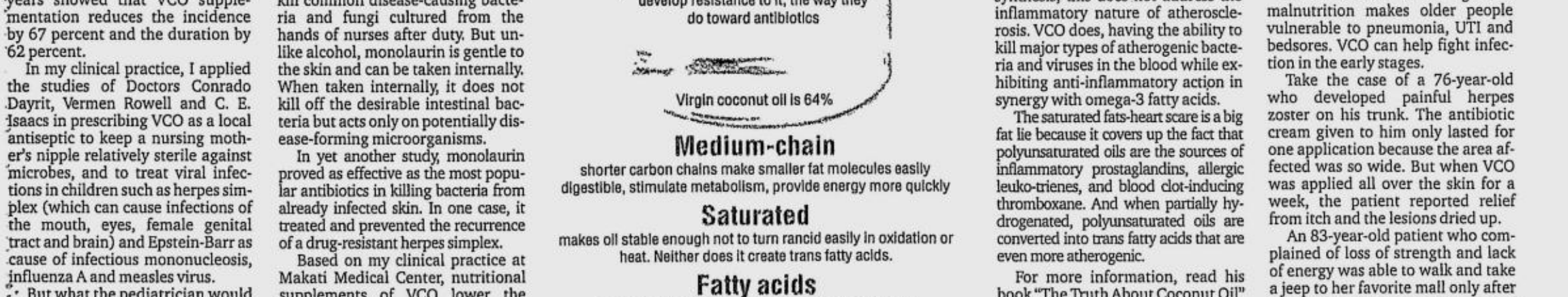
A combination of old age and malnutrition makes older people vulnerable to pneumonia, UTI and bedsores. VCO can help fight infection in the early stages.

Take the case of a 76-year-old who developed painful herpes zoster on his trunk. The antibiotic cream given to him only lasted for one application because the area affected was so wide. But when VCO was applied all over the skin for a week, the patient reported relief from itch and the lesions dried up.

An 83-year-old patient who complained of loss of strength and lack of energy was able to walk and take a jeep to her favorite mall only after a week of taking two tablespoons of VCO every morning.

CHEMISTRY DETERMINES THE FAIREST OF THEM OILS

Nature's chemistry is so precise that any alteration or modification tips the balance with adverse effects on our health



Quality test

Saturation of hydrogen atoms in a carbon chain determines oil stability and shelf life. Oxygen, heat and light cause the more unsaturated oils to 1) turn rancid 2) form trans fats 3) create free radicals in the body.

Length of carbon chain determines the size of molecule, a key factor in the way dietary fat is digested and metabolized

Sensory evaluation: Color, odor and taste should conform to the oil's natural fruit or seed derivative. Highly processed oils can be deceptive, they are odorless and may give no indication of rancidity. But if mixed with other substances, it may cause these other substances to produce an unpleasant smell and taste.

SOURCES: Mary Enig, PhD "The Oiling of America"; Conrado Dayrit, MD: "The Truth About Coconut Oil"; Vermen Verallo Rowell, MD : Rx: Coconuts!; and VCO Philippines "Oil You Need to Know about VCO."

INFOGRAPHICS: Art Lynett A.Villariba / Research Cesar Villariba Jr.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Street kids find sanctuary in Marcellin

By Aquiles Zonio
General Santos City

MARIST Brother Crispin Betita with rescued street children.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / BRO. MANNY DE LEON

JASON, 11, WAS WEEPING WHEN THE police found him in July.

When asked why he was crying, he said he was worried for his 73-year-old grandmother.

He earned nothing that day and he could not buy food to feed her. Jason and his younger brother Denzel, 10, were left under the care of their grandma.

But instead of being taken care of or sent to school, they became virtual vagabonds and breadwinners for their *lola* (grandma).

Just like them, the old woman was left by her sons and daughters to fend for herself.

Their mother, who went to Manila to look for a job, found a new love and decided to stay there for good. Their father, the boys claimed, was killed by an unknown assassin about five years ago.

Denzel was the first to join in the Marcellin Academy at the Katangawan Village here. Compared with other kids his age, he's unusually smaller. He dreams of becoming a boxing champion like Manny Pacquiao.

Jason formally entered the academy only in August.

He recalled that life in the streets was always a chase for survival. Street children earn by selling plastic cellophane and washing cars or motorcycles in parking areas.

Asked if they still wanted to go back to or live with their relatives, they said in Cebuano "It's better to stay here. We'll just visit them once in a while."

"We took the two boys in, but we advised their uncles and aunts to take care of the old woman," said Marist brother Crispin Betita, executive director of Marcellin Academy.

Second home

Sometime in 1991, Brother Betita was alarmed by the increasing number of street children in the city. He realized that there was no institution in the city focusing on abandoned, neglected and disadvantaged children.

On Jan. 25, 1991, the Marcellin Children's Home was established to serve as a sanctuary for street children.

He said the Marist Brothers took this advocacy not just as a response to the call of the times but as a sort of heeding Jesus Christ assertion in the Gospel to "Let the children come."

With the support of several generous individuals, the Marcellin Children's Home evolved in Sept. 9, 1992 into a non-stock, non-profit institution, dubbed Marcellin Foundation, Inc.

Aside from acquiring a license to operate, the foundation was also given accreditation by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The foundation ventured into several projects, one of which was the setting up of a residential care center for street children.

It was named Marcellin Academy, in honor of St. Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers.

The academy now serves as a second home for 130 children, most of them coming from the city, with some coming from as far as Manila, Davao and Cotabato.

Betita, who heads the academy, continues to make a big difference in the lives of children in the city.

There are facilities for children in a dormitory and five cottages—all donated—and situated on a two-hectare lot given by the Ramos family in Katangawan village.

Children are provided food shelter, clothing, health care and education.

Those 17 years old and below are accepted in the academy.

Once accepted, they are not released from the academy unless they have their own sources of livelihood.

"We don't release them unless we are sure they can live on their own," Betita said.

Other programs

The foundation has embarked on new programs to reach out to the most disadvantaged children.

Along this goal, it launched five years ago Alternative Home Education Agenda for Development (Ahead), a distance education program for high school which has at present 1,806 beneficiaries.

One of the beneficiaries was a 24-year-old single mother who was able to finish her secondary course online in just a year.

The same beneficiary is now pursuing her college degree at Notre Dame of Marbel University with a scholarship grant under the same program.

Another project is Sanayan sa Kakayahang Agrikultura (Saka), funded by Shell and Consuelo Foundations.

Under the program, the children, particularly those from indigenous communities, are enrolled on a farm school to be trained on raising chicken and other farm animals, including slope agriculture techniques.

Five smaller farm cottages were established inside the two-hectare compound of the academy to accommodate the trainees.

Beneficiaries are trained three to four days with all expenses paid for by the foundation. The program has so far produced 24 graduates.

Technical and skills training on automotive, welding and small engine repair are ongoing.

The beneficiaries are enrolled in various vocational schools here.

No kids in jail

Last year, Betita led the formation of a Juvenile Justice Network (JJN) in General Santos City to protect children who commit crimes.

JJN is a coalition of government agencies and non-government organizations to save children from dehumanizing condition inside the jail.

To achieve this objective, Marcellin has started to establish a "diversion program" in the city's 26 barangays to enable each barangay to protect and take care of children within its jurisdiction.

A system of mediation, reconciliation and prevention was established to emphasize restorative justice rather than punitive justice in dealing with children or minors involved in the commission of crimes.

Betita said the ultimate goal is "No children in jail."

JJN is composed of representatives from the local court, City Prosecutor's Office, Public Attorney's Office, Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Commission on Human Rights, City Social Welfare and Development Office, City Mayor's Office, Dadiangas Parish, Lagao Parish, the DILG and DSWD.

Just recently, through the efforts of JJN, 42 minor detainees were released from the city jail and transferred to the Marcellin Academy.

The academy required the parents of the minors to witness the turn-over.

Support

Betita thanked the city government for giving continuous support to the advocacy to advance children's welfare and interest in the city.

He said the city government this year increased its budget assistance to the academy from P150,000, to P750,000.

Councilor Lourdes Casabuena, chair of the city council's committee on family matters, instead of spending millions in putting up a facility, said it was a wise decision for the city to help sustain the program of the academy.

Besides, Casabuena said, the city government was satisfied with the way Betita was running the academy.

The local social welfare office has assigned four social workers to help Betita take care of the children.

Betita keeps on looking for sponsors. He admitted it still has a long way to go, but was determined to help the children.

Healing through 'Ovarian Chants'

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

A DOWNPOUR LOOMED OUTSIDE THE office of a nongovernment group in Davao City, but it failed to distract her. Rosalie Zerrudo animatedly recounted how she felt when her doctor told her that she had an ovarian cyst in summer.

She was scared like any other woman would be, she said. It was a moment so dark, she said, that she began to realize how important having a baby and motherhood was for a woman.

Before she received the news, Zerrudo was busy conducting art camps for pupils and out-of-school children, as well as biodiversity-ecotourism seminars. She has been the creative activator of Enigmata Tree House Galeri, a landmark made popular by its homegrown artistry.

ONE of Zerrudo's paintings
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A poet and painter from Iloilo, Zerrudo, 37, considers herself "a wind-free island lass, and like the morning dew that never runs out of creative energy for new things, poetry, and indoor and outdoor art ventures."

Life in Camiguin

Since she made Camiguin her new home, Zerrudo has become active in empowering children through alternative media. She took everything by heart and owned every inch of the island that, she knows, has only one LCD projector for the entire province with 30,000 children.

"Camiguin is an ecotourism island. I realized that we need to educate the children and youth about environmental education and so I started a biodiversity and art education through popular media. I got inspired when the education department asked me three years ago to help them out with an earth camp," she said.

Early this year, Zerrudo decided to give more time and become gentler to her self again while continuously giving inspiration to others by writing journals and poems.

"I realized, too, that while journaling your own thoughts, you can be beautiful at some point in your life when you read it and share it with other people—the thought that you have is almost similar to the thoughts and experiences of others ... then you realize that your thoughts do not belong to you anymore but to the world," she said.

Zerrudo said she discovered that she could effectively write journals and poems when she started not to care about grammar. She does not consider herself a good writer, but her two road maps were published by known local poet Tita Lacambra Ayala.

Then one day, when she was in Davao, the bad news came.

"At some point in my life, I never really thought that I was going to have a baby, that I was going to be a mother. Then you find out that there's something wrong with your system, with your ovary and then all you are doing is to count and anticipate the final count down because you never really heard about it," she said.

Greatest nightmare

"Upon learning that I had to go through a reproductive breakthrough—breakthrough because it is the time when my body undergoes changes—I was really scared. For a woman, it could be her greatest nightmare," Zerrudo said.

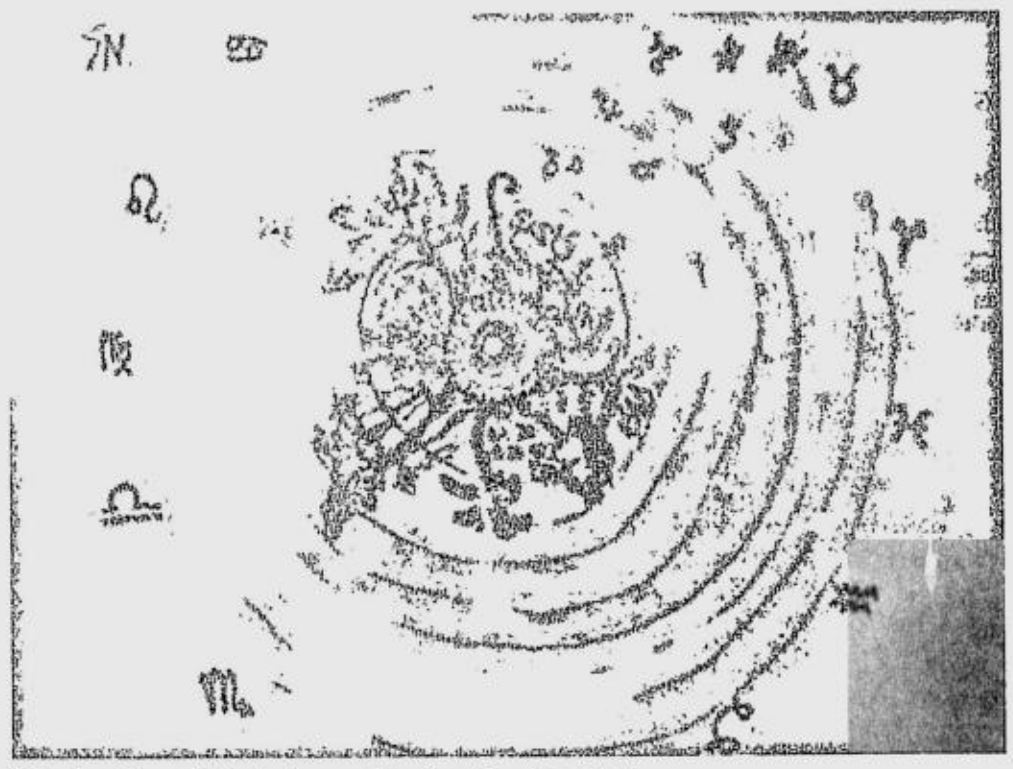
"I felt that I was being pushed to a particular corner, a dead end, and then I said it was enough," she added.

She was referring to the possibility of going under the knife and all the processes she had resorted to—pranic healing, acupuncture, homeopathy, massages, meditations, and herbal concoctions—to get rid of the problem.

But she said she could not allow her problem to drown her in depression while other people needed as much inspiration.

Before she knew it, she was already writing poems, painting, and humming new songs, all telling stories about the liberation, triumph and pain of women.

This crisis was also the force behind the



"Ovarian Chants" that she produced with Bukidnon-based Talaindig artist Waway Saway and Bebot Cervantes. The project, she declared, was her own "spaces in-between."

"We normally just see the solid objects and then we realize that we can only look at these details close enough and appreciate everything about it because of the spaces in between. This is a very personal process," she said.

"This is something that is giving birth to something—a light coming out of the tunnel—like the worst nightmare of a woman can actually become a chance to create something really beautiful," Zerrudo said.

Recorded just within a day last summer, the Ovarian Chants became Zerrudo's pill. Good for her, she said, because while she is in crisis, her friends are supporting her.

Her case became the source of strength for her poetry with enchanting and telling music. Recently, a Catholic healing Mass used two of the 12 tracks during the celebration. In one track, Zerrudo talked about hope amid uncertainties.

Zerrudo said the Ovarian Chants were her gift to people with similar experience and stories as her.

"These people are also going through something which could be worse than mine. I realize that this is not so bad and emergency according to my doctor and I can get pregnant if I ovulate," she said.

"Ovarian Chants are healing affirmations for every succulent woman who wish to unblock herself to give birth to her creativity back to the wild where she feels safe, loved and nurtured," she added.

Now, she has also started to paint using her left, nondominant hand. This, she said, was her way of releasing the blocks within her.

One of her paintings showed a woman's uterus dispensing layers and layers of colors. In her blog, Zerrudo considered her paintings "windows of my soul."

Apparently, nothing can stop Zerrudo from doing all the things that she loved doing and discovering other new things about her and the complex world that surrounds her. Now, the restless soul that she is will venture into an environmental and cultural film project in partnership with Patrimony Sans Frontiers.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

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RECTO

SANCHEZ

Recto goes on offensive, sues Sanchez for graft

Accused mastermind of attack calls gov 'criminal'

CALAMBA CITY—JUST AS BATANGAS GOV. ARMANDO SANCHEZ filed several criminal charges against him, embattled Vice Gov. Richard Recto also filed four different graft and corruption charges against his staunchest political rival at the Ombudsman.

After he decided to keep mum on the murder and frustrated charges against him, Recto took an offensive yesterday, calling Sanchez "a criminal and a jueteng lord."

In a mobile phone interview with the INQUIRER, Recto said he filed separate cases for unexplained wealth, perjury, misdeclaration of assets and tax evasion.

He said he filed the cases on Tuesday and Thursday, the same day Sanchez filed two counts of murder and one count each of frustrated and arson before the prosecutor's office in Batangas City.

Recto denied the charges linking him as the mastermind of the TNT-triggered bomb explosion at Batangas Capitol that nearly killed Sanchez, ripped apart his H-2 Hummer vehicle and torched his bodyguard PO2 Eric Landicho and driver Luisito Icaro to death.

Sanchez narrowly escaped death, managing to break the vehicle's right window glass using his head and right arm and dropping off the ground after the second explosion.

Investigation by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group listed politics as a motive for the crime.

Also charged were lawyer Christopher Belmonte, Christina Antonio, Betina Balderama, Lt. Angelbert Gay, 2Lt. Aldrin Baldonado, LTJG Kiram Sadava and six other unidentified suspects.

Recto admitted that he was "very concerned" on the cases he now faced.

"This is a very serious matter," Recto said.

He, however, declined to discuss some facts on the affidavits of the Magdalo soldiers who stood as witnesses against him, based on the advice of his legal counsel.

"But I completely deny any knowledge or participation in the assassination attempt on Sanchez. I condemn the attack on the governor, his driver and bodyguard. Violence has no place in a civilized society," he said.

"I'm no criminal. He's the criminal, he's the jueteng lord," Recto added, referring to Sanchez. *Marlon Ramos and Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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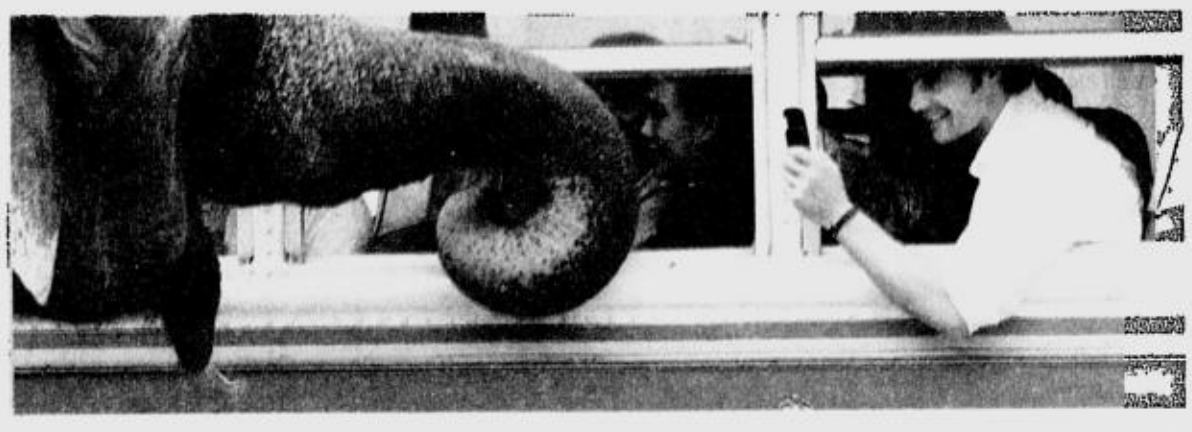

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ROUNDUP

Red tide alert lifted

MASINLOC, Zambales—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has lifted the red tide alert in the waters of Masinloc Bay. Armando Manalo, BFAR chief in Zambales, said the waters of this town and nearby Palauig, Candelaria, San Antonio and Sta. Cruz have been declared free from the red tide toxins following tests conducted by BFAR. Manalo said these areas have shown negative microorganism appearance and growth. He said shellfish gatherers in the province could resume their activities following the lifting of the ban.

Cesar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon

Police exec slain

PAGADIAN CITY—The commander of the 907th provincial police mobile group in Zamboanga del Sur was killed in front of his family while trying to subdue at least three persons robbing the passenger van they were riding in on Thursday in Dimataling town. Zamboanga del Sur police chief Supt. Ramon Ochotorena said Supt. Bernardo Palmero was on his way home to Dimataling with his wife Nima and son Jollibee when the incident took place in Barangay Lulutan around 7 p.m. "Upon reaching the vicinity of Lulutan one of the suspects, who was sitting near the driver pulled out a gun and pointed it to use," Nima said. He said her husband told the robbers not to do this. "He then stood up and attempted to grab the handgun of one of the suspects," she said.

Hernan dela Cruz, Inquirer Mindanao

Bridge collapses, 1 dead

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—One person was killed while five others were injured when they plunged into a river following the collapse of a hanging foot bridge in Barangay Hawilian Esperanza here on Thursday afternoon. Reports reaching the police said the victims were watching rafts towing logs in the river when the steel cables that were holding the bridge snapped. Killed was Rico Cademia, 38, married and a resident of the village. Seriously injured were Jonah Calo, Felipe Batungan, Berly Brital, Lorepen Campos and Eliazar Montisano.

Chris V. Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao

Village exec shot dead

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified gunmen shot dead the village chief of Barangay Poblacion 3 here on Thursday evening. City police chief Supt. Paniares Adap said Teofilo Albores, 53, was the seventh village chieftain assassinated since 1993 here. Last month, Poblacion 1 Barangay Chair Kagi Uday was wounded when unidentified gunmen attacked him. City police spokesperson Senior Insp. Samson Obatay said Albores was about to leave his barangay hall at 7 p.m. when two of three suspects fired on him. "He was initially hit in the head. When he fell to the floor, the suspects fired more shots, apparently to ensure he was dead, Obatay said.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

AN EVACUEE from Barangay Cabalagnan finds temporary home at a school building in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.
PHOTOS BY ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Scientists urge swift removal of oil from tanker

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

TIGBAUAN, ILOILO—SCIENTISTS from all over the country urged authorities to remove as soon as possible the remaining oil from the sunken tanker Solar I that was carrying bunker fuel for Petron.

In a statement, the scientists said the further delay in the removal of the remaining bunker fuel may cause the oil to spread to areas which have not have been affected so far more than a month after the MT Solar I sank on Aug. 11 around 13.3 nautical miles southwest of Barangay Lapaz in Nueva Valencia town.

They said the onset of the northeast monsoon (*amihan*), which lasts from October to late March, would spread the oil to the south and west of Guimaras Strait.

"This will exacerbate the situation with regards to the environment, and consequently livelihood and human health," the scientists said in the statement issued at the conclusion of a meeting on the oil spill.

The spill has spread northeast of the site of the sinking because of the direction of the wind and current brought by the southwest monsoon (*habagat*).

The tanker sank to a depth of 640 meters and is believed to be still carrying 1.7 million liters of bunker fuel.

Dr. Jurgenne Primavera, Pew Fellow and Seafdec senior aquaculture specialist, said the conference provided a venue where experts in marine biological and physical sciences shared their expertise and insights based on their fields of expertise to help address the oil spill.

Primavera said the objective of the conference is to guide ongoing research and coordinate future assessments on the impact of the oil spill so that the available resources and expertise can be maximized.

The long-term goal is to develop procedures and guidelines on how to deal with similar events in the future.

Science-based

The participants drew up a list of suggested areas and focus of researches in the short and long-term periods and the funding needed.

They said in their statement that while the oil spill has generated an "unprecedented response" from various sectors, "the response should be science-based and properly coordinated."

The scientists said there was a need for an objective analysis of the technical aspects of the spill, its impacts and the responses, and to draw lessons from it.

They also raised concern over the use of chemical dispersants in containing the oil spill.

"We strongly recommend that the use of dispersants in shallow water habitats such as mangroves, sea grass beds, and coral communities should be avoided...," the statement said.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava, along with other Guimaras officials, filed on Thursday the first criminal complaint against Petron Corp. president Khalid Al-Faddagh and Clemente Cancio, president of the Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. (SMDC), for violating at least three environmental laws.

The complaint also named as respondents Petron officials Nicasio Alcantara (chair and chief executive officer), Felimon Antiporda (vice president for operations) and Carlos Tan (health safety and environment officer and company spokesperson).

The respondents were charged with violating Republic Act No. 9275 (Clean Water Act of 2004), Republic Act No. 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999) and Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

Petron spokesperson Carlos Tan said they have not received a copy of the complaint.

Unfortunate

"It is unfortunate that we need to go to court," Tan told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

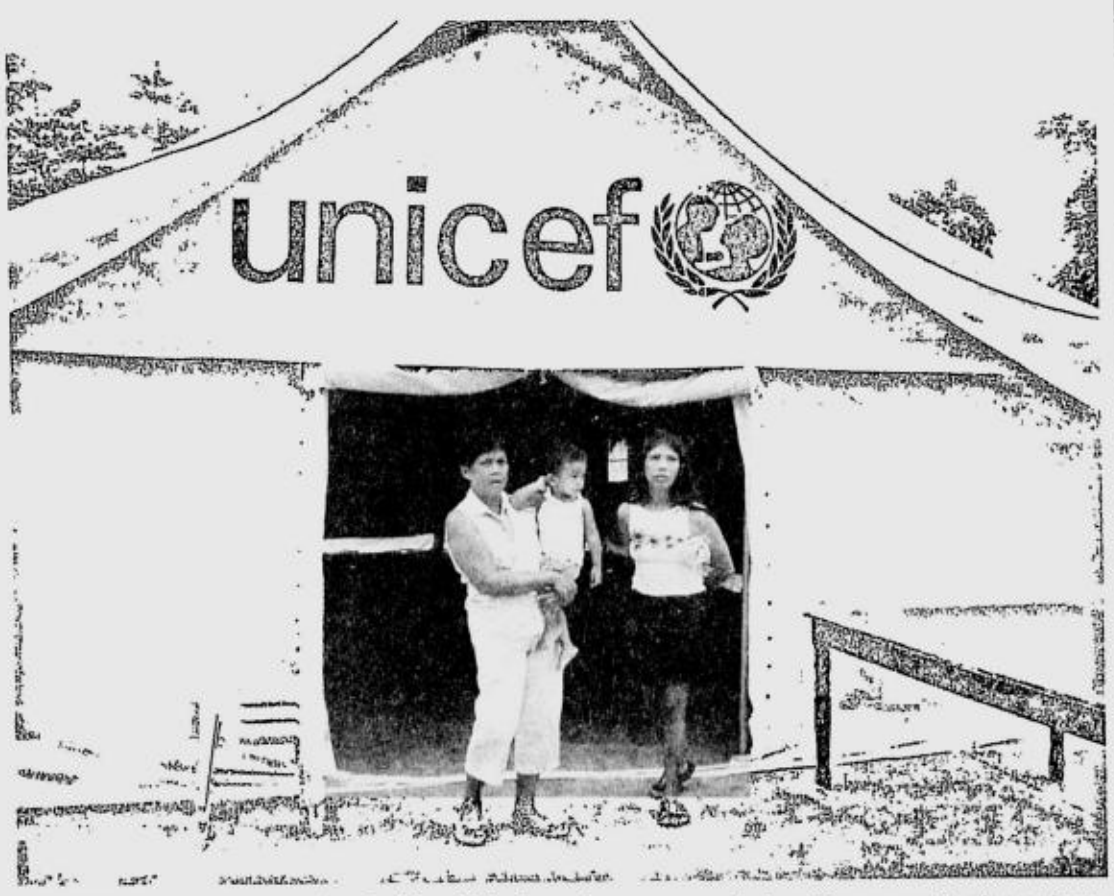
But he said the complaint would provide a "good opportunity and legal venue to air our side."

He also gave an assurance that the case will not stop them from helping residents.

Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga also signed the 11-page complaint. The Nueva Valencia town was the hardest hit among the five municipalities of the province.

"We believe that our case is strong," Nava said after they filed the complaint before the office of provincial prosecutor Luzermindo Calmorin in the capital town of Jordan.

Jordan Mayor Felipe Nava, Buenavista Mayor Samuel Gumarin and Sibunag Mayor Pedrito Gange will file similar complaints next week, he added.



A WOMAN carries her grandson inside a Unicef tent for evacuees displaced by nauseating fumes from the oil spill from an oil tanker that was carrying Petron bunker fuel in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

6 Army execs face contempt raps from CHR

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Charges for indirect contempt will be filed on Monday by the Commission on Human Rights against six Army commanders in Central Luzon, Commissioner Eligio Mallari said on Saturday.

He said the commission decided to file the charges after Lt. Col. Hermilo Barrios of the Army's Judge Advocate General Office assailed the jurisdiction of the CHR to conduct a public inquiry on at least nine cases of human rights abuses attributed to some officers and soldiers of the 7th Infantry Division.

Reached through his mobile phone, Barrios declined to comment on the issue. "I received an order not to issue comments yet to the media," he said.

Mallari said the Army would be given three to five days to answer the charges.

Under the rules of the commission, indirect contempt for violation of procedures and processes carries a penalty of P3,000 for every offender.

In another development, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas assailed the police in Zambales for allegedly illegally arresting and detaining three Aeta leaders on Friday.

Carl Ala, KMP information officer, said policemen nabbed Nelson Mallari, Nardo Serrano and Andres Dacanay, all leaders of the Central Luzon Aeta Association, at a checkpoint in San Marcelino town.

Senior Supt. Arrazard Subong, Zambales police chief, said documents were found in the possession of the three Aeta. Subong could not tell exactly what those papers were, saying these were still in the custody of his men in Castillejos town.

Subong said he ordered the Aeta released without charges. Ala said they were released on the assistance of the public attorney's office in Zambales.

Mallari said they were arrested when they failed to show a community tax certificate.

In Baguio City, religious groups said they were providing refuge for relatives of victims of political killings and human rights abuses.

Sr. Raphael Hernandez, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Concepcion, said leaders of congregations in Baguio and other regions have been talking about helping the victims and their families lead normal lives by providing them shelter.

"We are open and the congregations are ready to help. If we know that if worse comes to worst, we can never refuse these people who will seek help and refuge. We already did this during Marcos time," she said.

A veteran human rights advocate, Hernandez, 68, said she had seen the horrors of human rights abuses when she was working for the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines in Northern Luzon in the 1980s.

"The priest and nuns were also subjected to harassment... Before I was so afraid but when I saw the situation, the massacres, abductions, disappearances in Nueva Ecija and Southern Tagalog, I knew something should be done," she said.

On Thursday, friends and families of victims of human rights abuses launched the "Hustisya" to actively campaign for justice for victims of political killings. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon.*

Kin of anti-Left killings form group to get justice

BAGUIO CITY—DURING MASS AT the St. Elizabeth's Cathedral here on Thursday, Dr. Constancio "Chandu" Claver would occasionally massage his left arm, which rests on a sling, to ease a recurring pain.

Claver, who survived an ambush that killed his wife, Alice, in Tabuk, Kalinga, on July 31, joined other relatives of victims of political killings in the Ilocos and the Cordillera in forming "Hustisya."

Claver is chair of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Kalinga while his slain wife was the group's coordinator.

Beverly Longid, vice chair of Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, said Hustisya was formed to provide a support system to relatives of victims of human rights violations.

She said the group would seek justice for slain family members and join the campaign to stop the killings of political activists in the country.

Human rights advocates here said not a single case has prospered against the perpetrators during the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Elvie Sanchez, wife of slain Bayan Muna-Ilocos coordinator Romeo Sanchez, said the Arroyo administration should be blamed for the spate of political killings in the country following its stepped up anti-insurgency operations that also targeted activists and members of militant and party-list groups.

The spouses of slain Bayan Muna-Kalinga leader Rafael Markus Bangit and activists Albert Terredano, Jose Doton, Jose Manegdeg III and Gloria Casuga joined the launching of Hustisya.

Claver said they formed the group to give the relatives of victims of political killings a stronger voice in demanding justice for the attacks on their loved ones.

"I hope that [my wife] Alice would be the last [victim]. But this might not happen if we do not act. We all came here to [express] our mutual support and to act to put an end to the killings," Claver said.

He said the group would extend medical assistance to the families of victims who were traumatized by the attacks.

The group, he said, would also raise funds to extend educational, funeral, legal and livelihood assistance to the relatives of victims.

Witnesses to the Sept. 7 murder of Apayao election supervisor Julius Angadol described to the police two of his supposed gunmen.

One suspect was described as a tall, fair-skinned man, who wore a red cap when he shot Angadol. The other suspect was also fair-skinned, with a mustache. *Desiree Caluza with a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BCDA asked: Shed light on takeover

THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPment Authority (BCDA) was asked to explain the haste with which the government took over the seaport at Poro Point following a denial by a BCDA subsidiary that the order came from it.

In a press statement, Brigido Dulay, legal counsel of Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), asked BCDA president Narciso Abaya to clear the air and explain to investors the circumstances behind the takeover.

Dulay said Jose Singson-Racadio, head of the Poro Port Management Corp. (PPMC), has been denying that the PPMC sought a cease-and-desist order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to stop port operations at Poro Point.

Abaya says he has no role in contractor screening

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Bases Conversion Development Authority president Narciso Abaya on Saturday denied he endorsed any sub-contractors of the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP).

Abaya, who is also the chief executive officer of the BCDA, made the denial in reaction to a statement by Antonio Rex Chan, the agency's vice president for operations and program director of the SCTEP, a Japanese-funded road project.

In seeking to clear himself from allegations he received between P1 million and P5 million from companies wanting to get sub-contracts, Chan on Aug. 29 told the INQUIRER that he did not endorse local contractors unless these were endorsed by congressmen and mayors.

"I did not endorse anyone without the endorsement of my boss," he later added in the phone interview.

Chan further claimed having no hand in negotiations, pointing out that the Japanese consortiums were the ones that determined the sub-contractors based on their capabilities.

"So how can I ask something from those fellows?" he said.

While Abaya agreed with Chan's information that the selection of sub-contractors rested solely on the Kajima, Obayashi, JFE Engineering and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Joint Venture and the Hazama, Taisei and Nippon Steel Joint Venture, he clarified the process that transpired before he joined the BCDA in November 2004.

The contract, whose loan signing date was on Sept. 14, 2001, started in April 2005 under Abaya's helm.

Firstly, Abaya said, the contract was between the BCDA and the Japanese consortiums. "They are the ones that entered into contracts with the sub-contractors, not us," he said. Asked how many these were, he replied, "they are so many, hundreds perhaps."

At the level of the BCDA, he said the agency created a committee within the SCTEP project management office that screened the applicants for sub-contract work.

"Any sub-contractor will have to be deliberated upon by that committee to make sure there are no fly-by-night (companies) among them," he said.

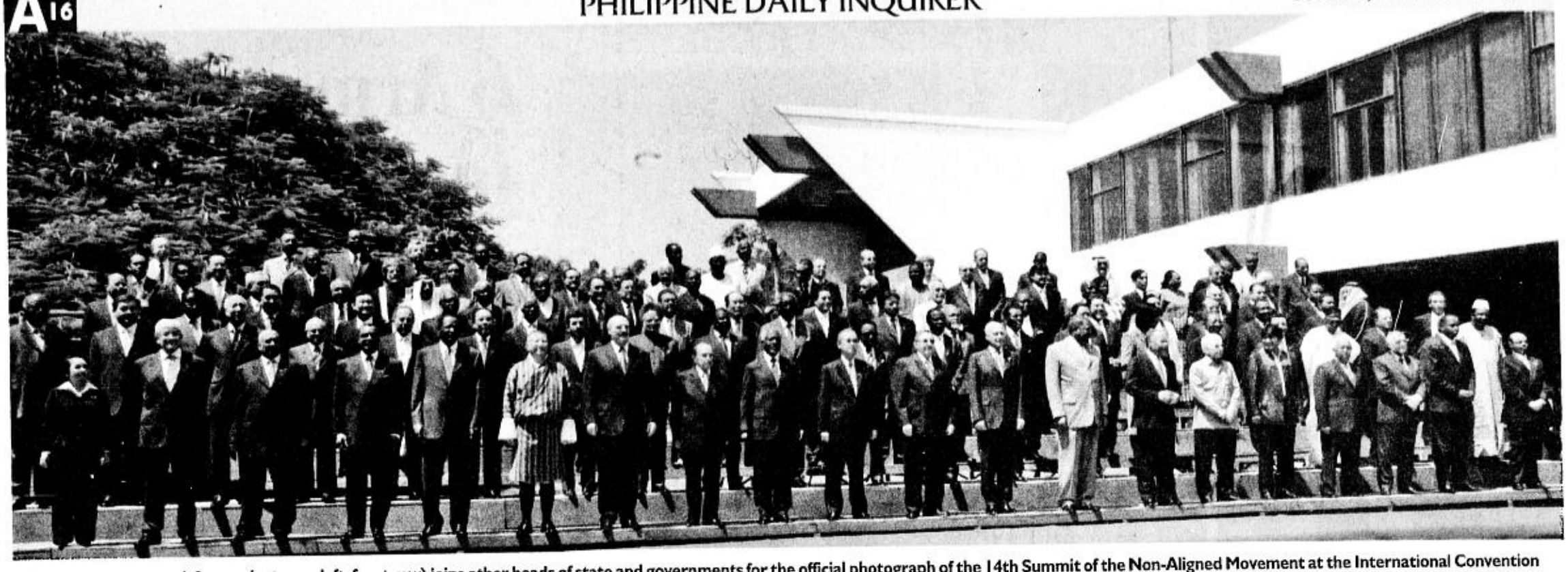
The list of qualified contractors and the complete set of documents establishing their capabilities for the work were then submitted to Chan who, in turn, forwarded this to the BCDA president's office.

From that level, the documents were then sent to the Japanese contractors for final approval.

According to Abaya, some sub-contractors went directly to the contractors but these were referred to the committee for processing.

"Ultimately, the responsibility (to choose the sub-contractors) was on the Japanese contractors. *Hindi kami nakikialam*," he said.

"We are not supposed to meddle but being the owner of the project, our job was to make sure there would be no fly-by-night sub-contractors."



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (extreme left, front row) joins other heads of state and governments for the official photograph of the 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement at the International Convention Center in Havana, Cuba. The 118 countries which compose the organization consider themselves not formally aligned for or against any major power bloc. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

A warm welcome for GMA from Bush

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HONOLULU, HAWAII (VIA PLDT)—PRESIdent George W. Bush warmly welcomed by letter President Macapagal-Arroyo who is visiting this American island state where she will meet with senior US Pacific Command officials to review military partnership arrangements.

The President arrived here late Friday (Saturday afternoon in Manila) after attending the summit of leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement in Havana, Cuba.

Ms Arroyo is here mainly to lead the centennial celebrations honoring the first wave of Filipino immigrant workers who came to Hawaii in the first decades of the 20th century and paved the way for the millions of Filipinos working all over the globe today.

Bush wrote: "Laura and I are honored to welcome Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to the United States. I am proud that the United States and the Philippines continue to stand together as partners in the advancement of peace and liberty. I appreciate all those who helped make this ceremony possible. Your work honors the proud history of Filipino Americans and all those who have served and sacrificed for the cause of liberty."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was keen to discuss possible ways to strengthen the US-Philippine security arrangements not just in traditional but also in non-traditional areas like disaster mitigation and relief.

"We all know that development assistance is important to us, especially in view of the many natural and man-made disasters that have visited our country," Bunye said.

The President will meet with US Pacific Command chief Admiral Van Alford, after the unveiling of a memorial celebrating the 60th anniversary of Philippine-US relations at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Lasting tribute

In his letter, Bush said the Philippines played a vital role in the Allied victory in the Pacific during World War II.

He said the memorial "will stand as a lasting tribute to the brave Filipinos and Americans who stepped forward when the world needed them and fought side by side as part of the greatest force for freedom in history."

He also paid tribute to the pioneering Filipino workers in the US.

"The sons and daughters of the Philippines have come to America over the past 100 years with a sense of determination and optimism. Their industry, talent and imagination have shaped our character and helped make America a stronger and better nation.

"This important milestone is an opportunity to recognize the countless contributions of Filipino-Americans, honor the grand traditions of the Philippines, and build on the deep bonds of friendship and goodwill between our two great democracies," he said.

Local government officials led by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson flew in to join the President at the centennial celebrations.

The first 15 Filipino workers who came to Hawaii were mostly from Ilocos Sur.

The President will also meet with the Honolulu Advertiser newspaper's editorial board and Honolulu City and County Mayor Muffi Hanneman; unveil the Sakada Marker at the Filipino community center; visit the Honolulu Academy of Arts; and attend a dinner to be given by Honolulu Gov. Linda Lingle.

She will leave here at 12 a.m. on Sunday (6 p.m. in Manila).

Although she failed to visit the ailing Cuban President Fidel Castro, the President was able to send him her best wishes through his brother, First Vice President Raul Castro.

Ms Arroyo also offered flowers at the monument to national hero Jose Rizal in Havana's Heroes Park where statues of freedom fighters in other former Spanish colonies are honored.

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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LUCIA Sarmiento and a team of 10 sewers worked for more than three weeks on the Philippine "super flag."
JOAN BONDOC

Sewers worked nonstop to set new world record

Daunting task an act of faith and hope, says team of seamstresses

By DJ Yap

AS A SEAMSTRESS FOR 15 YEARS NOW, Lucia Sarmiento has come across all sorts of needlepoint jobs. She has done it all—from sewing dishrags and shirts to repairing blankets and curtains.

But nothing prepared her for the biggest project of her career: Sewing what has been touted as the largest flag in the world.

The task was daunting. As head of a 10-person team, she was supposed to finish a Philippine flag that measures 100.584 meters by 201.168 meters (330 feet by 660 feet)—roughly covering an area of two hectares—in three weeks.

In an interview earlier this week in Camp Karingal, Quezon City, where Sarmiento and her team were working on the flag, she told the INQUIRER, "We're working round-the-clock in 12-hour shifts, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (and vice versa.) I have not taken a bath in three days."

The flag made of nylon taffeta and satin aims to beat the record of the United States' "Superflag" that measures 255 feet by 505 feet (77.724 meters by 153.924 meters).

It was unfurled yesterday on Mt. Inordinan, Bone South in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, following the postponement of a previously scheduled unveiling at Rizal Park in Manila (*See related story in Page 1*).

Bigger venue needed

"Luneta is too small and we could not completely unfurl the flag as required to beat the record," Grace Gupana, vice president of the main sponsor ABS GEN Herbs International Corp. and founder of HalleluYAH PG Tower Ministries International, told the INQUIRER a few days before the unveiling.

"With our prayers for almost a year and a half, the Lord spoke to us, saying: 'How can I love you if you yourselves do not even love your country? The first thing that you should do is to lift your flag because it has a spiritual meaning'," she said.

After Rizal Park, the group had asked the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, to unfurl the flag at Sunken Garden and conduct a prayer gathering there, but university officials denied the request.

UP officials cited the principle of separation of Church and State, adding that since the event would include prayers, it would be unconstitutional.

Proud to be host

The group eventually picked Nueva Vizcaya, where Gupana hails from. Gov. Luisa Cuaresma earlier said her constituents were proud that their province would host the unfurling of the giant flag.

"We are honored to become the venue of this event. This will add to the popularity of our province and above all, this will serve as a unifying factor for us Filipinos," she added.

The flag will be displayed for three days in Mt. Inordinan before it is taken to California where Guinness World Records officials can verify and document the entry for possible inclusion in the organization's official records, Gupana said.

According to Sarmiento, the people behind the project had worked literally nonstop to finish the job in time. Ten sewers, two artists and 40 volunteers started working on the flag on Aug. 26, she added.

The flag required 200 rolls of cloth, each measuring 110 yards, which were sewn together using four sewing machines, she said.

Expensive project

The cloth alone cost almost P500,000, Sarmiento said. "That does not include labor and other expenses," she told the INQUIRER.

"At first, I didn't realize how big the job was. But when I saw the wide expanse of

SEWERS/ A18

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Binay man shot dead in Taguig City

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SECURITY CHIEF OF MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay was shot dead yesterday—an incident that Binay said was part of a plot to assassinate him.

Pablito Glean, Binay's chief security officer and head of the Makati Business Permit and License Office, was killed while drinking coffee with friends at a gasoline station in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Benhur Bernados, a security guard of Global City, was also killed after he was hit by stray bullets. Three other men—Socrates Galpo, Albert Gigante and Felix Santiago—friends of Glean, were wounded in the incident. The three are members of the Bagwis Riding Club, a group of bikers based in Taguig City.

Slay plot?

City police chief Supt. Alfred Corpus said they have yet to establish a motive for the incident although Binay claimed it was part of a plan to assassinate him.

"While we await the initial results of the investigation, we can say with moral certainty that this was a political killing—a killing with a clear message to me," the mayor said in a statement.

Binay had earlier voiced suspicion that Malacañang was out to "destroy" the opposition by cracking down on its leaders.

Glean was with other members of the Bagwis Riding Club in front of the Shell gas station convenience store on 32nd Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, at around 7:30 a.m. yesterday when four men shot him several times.

Glean and his friends usually met on Saturdays at the gas station before they went on out-of-town trips on board their motorcycles.

The group was supposedly bound for Tagaytay City, Cavite, yesterday, said Corpus. "Glean's group was just waiting for some of their friends to arrive when the suspects fired at him. Their main target was really Glean."

The victim died on the spot after he was hit in the head, Corpus said.

Special operations

Binay said that Glean, who had been his friend for 15 years, had forwarded to him three weeks ago information about the existence of two groups—"Task Force Spider" and "Operation Phoenix." The victim said the two groups were tasked to conduct "special operations" in Makati.

Joey Salgado, chief of Makati's Information and Community Relations Department, said "Phoenix" referred to Binay.

POLICEMEN cordon off the area in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, where Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's security chief was shot dead yesterday by four men. REM ZAMORA

"Today, in a very real sense, Lito Glean literally took a bullet for me. Such an act of real heroism will not go for naught. As in life he was a most dependable ally; in death, he will be our inspiration to carry on," the mayor said.

The police immediately launched a manhunt for the suspects who fled on board a white taxi with plate number PYN 593 toward Kalayaan, C-5 Road after the incident.

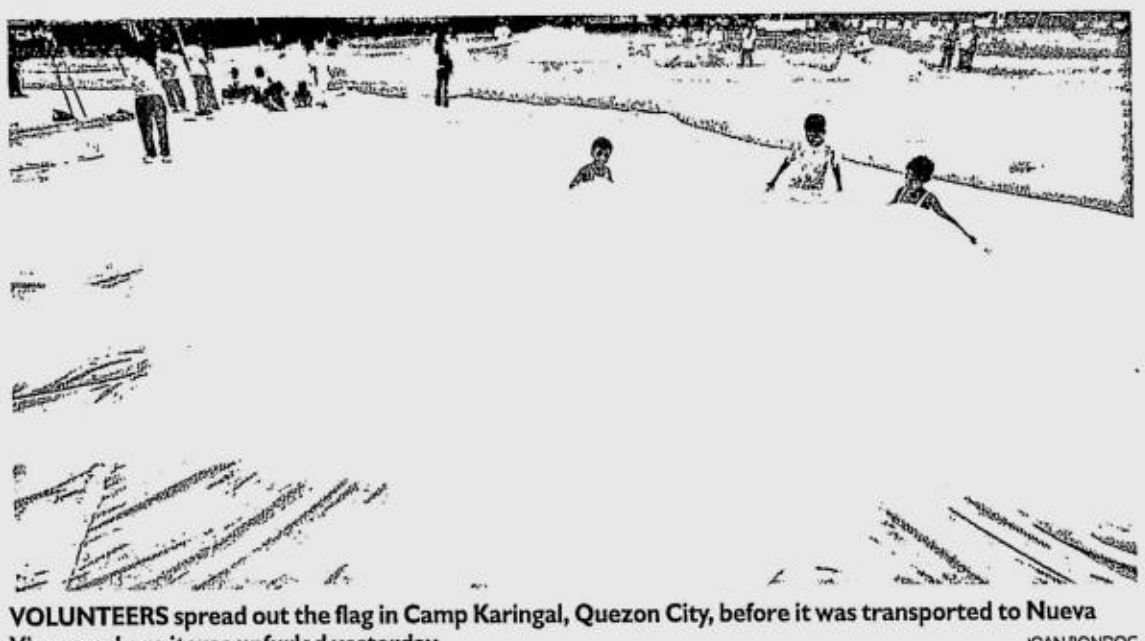
MetroBriefs

Two men killed in shootout

TWO people were killed while a policeman was seriously hurt in a shootout in Mandaluyong City yesterday morning. Police identified the fatalities as Jose Dollesin, of Barangay Addition Hills and Romeo Zapanta, of Barangay Poblacion, both in Mandaluyong City. P01 Carlo Doronilla, assigned with the Traffic Management Group in Camp Crame, Quezon City, was seriously injured and remains under observation at the Lourdes Hospital in Sta. Mesa, Manila. Investigation showed that the policeman had accosted Dollesin for carrying a gun on the street. Instead of responding, however, the latter fired at the lawman, triggering a shootout. Zapanta, on the other hand, was hit by a bullet. Dollesin died on the spot while Zapanta passed away while being treated at the Mandaluyong City Medical Center. *Tina G. Santos*

Say no to skin whiteners

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday warned the public against unregistered skin-whitening pills being sold in Metro Manila after the arrest of a man caught selling the product. The NBI said it seized P50,000 worth of skin-whitening capsules from Joseph Dulin, 27, of Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal, during an entrapment operation in a mall in Mandaluyong. Agents are looking for Dulin's cohorts identified as Anacleto Ligaya Jr. and a certain Alice. The NBI carried out the operation after Evelyn Reyes, one of the suspects' victims, went to the bureau for help after she found out that the pills they were selling, with the brand name Ishi-Kangen C, was not registered with the Bureau of Food and Drugs. Charges of violating the Consumer Act of the Philippines were filed against the suspect. *Tina G. Santos*



VOLUNTEERS spread out the flag in Camp Karingal, Quezon City, before it was transported to Nueva Vizcaya where it was unfurled yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

Sewers worked nonstop

From page A17

cloth, I couldn't help but be overwhelmed. I began asking myself if it could be done," she said.

But something helped strengthen her resolve to go on: "I love my country. Even when I was young, just singing 'Lupang Hinirang' or reciting 'Panatang Makabayan' sometimes made me cry."

"With so many things going on, in politics or wherever, I think it's high time we Filipinos unite," Sarmiento said.

She added that looking at an important national symbol like the Philippine flag on such a big scale could help Filipinos realize their love for their country.

"Just looking at it can change something in you. One day, while working on the flag, there was a wind. The flaps of cloth were moving with the wind," she said.

Spectacular sight

"It was a spectacular sight. When some children saw it, they began smiling and laughing," added Sarmiento, who is also a prayer intercessor of Gupana's religious group.

A native of Candaba, Pampanga, Sarmiento only reached fourth year high school and could not continue her studies when her father died.

She found work as a seamstress for a garment factory, and for 15 years, mastered the craft of cloth-making.

"At first I was just sewing rags, then shorts, shirts, later bed sheets," Sarmiento said. "I never realized I would ever make something on this scale," she added, referring to the flag.

Asked what she would do once the project was completed, she said, "I'll shout, 'Victory!' Then I'll get a foot spa and a facial." *With Ben Moses Ebreo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their stories.

A seaman's harvest

By Julie M. Aurelio

WHEN HE WALKED DOWN the gangplank of MV Dakota Belle in 1998, Capt. Rosauro Olivar said goodbye to the seas.

Captain Olivar, or Ross to his fellow crewmembers, ended some 30 years of living and working as a seaman, a tough decision he made so that he could send his six children to school.

Today, as he looks back at his younger days, he is proud that his children have all graduated from college, thanks to the kind seas.

His children by his late wife Marietta—Christopher, 38; Clifford, 37; Cheryl Ann, 36; Charlemagne, 34; Claribelle, 32; and Christine, 27—had all gone to private schools and finished their chosen degrees on time.

They graduated one after the other, beginning in 1990 with Christopher who finished his Architecture degree at the Far Eastern University.

OLIVAR with his children and grandchildren on Christmas 2001 in Marikina City, front row, from left: Carl Jamesy, baby Elijah, Blythe, Gabby, Glorielle; second row, from left: Cheryl, Claribelle; third row, from left: Rina, Cor, Christine, Jon, Tess, Christopher; back row, from left: Charlemagne, Jeff, Clifford.

Letters from home

And they all grew up looking up to him.

"My crew sometimes gets jealous when I receive letters from home and my children dedicate their accomplishments in school to me," Ross says. "They ask me, '*Bakit ang mga anak mo ganyan, yung amin hindi?*'"

Clifford took up Industrial Electronic Technology at Don Bosco in Mandaluyong and finished in 1991; Cheryl Ann, Bachelor of Business Administration, major in accounting at the University of the East; Charlemagne, Business Management at Roosevelt Memorial College; and Claribelle, Mass Communication, also at UE.

The youngest, Christine, finished her Psychology degree at the Trinity College of Quezon City in 1998, two months before Ross retired and came home to his family in Marikina City.

It was hard work and frugality that saw the Olivar brood through in those 25 years of studying without their father by their side and with their mother, Marietta, holding the family together.

Olivar's eldest son Christopher remembers the one thing that his father had asked of him: To study and to study well.

"We were told that almost repeatedly, and that was our only obligation (to them)," he says.

Hungry years

His mother, Christopher adds, even encouraged them to enroll in summer classes.

Despite being away most of the time, Ross taught his children a Spartan discipline: He wanted his children to grow neither in luxuries nor vices.

As a captain, Ross earned up to $3,800 a month in the 1990s, probably more than enough for the family to live comfortably.

But Ross was firm in following his discipline.

"I believed that children should only get what they need," he says. "They must learn to save money, but they can ask from me whatever they need as long as they justify it."

Ross did not want his three boys and three girls to go hungry the way he did when he was just a child growing up in the streets of Quiapo before the Second World War.

His father Demetrio was also a seaman, serving as the chief laundryman of one of the US Navy's training ships. The eldest of three children, Ross was born in Quiapo in 1935.

> 'If our father didn't leave us, where would we be? If our father weren't as stingy, could we have finished schooling?'

"My father would always regale me with stories of the seaman's good life," Ross says. "It's always about having a good time. But he never talked about the hardship of being a seaman."

The good life

Demetrio never gave any inkling that it wasn't all sunshine aboard the ship.

Demetrio's salary was often spent for the usual "good time," and Ross remembers a time when he was forced to work as a newspaper boy at a young age. The young Ross would turn over his daily wage of 60 centavos to his mother.

"My father didn't have any foresight (to invest)," he says. Once, in a fit of anger, Ross recalled having snapped at his father for failing to provide enough for the family.

It was pure coincidence, Ross says, that he ended up in the same profession as his father's.

"I really wanted to become a doctor," he says.

Seaman's wife

But poverty had pushed him to seek a less lofty career. After the war, Ross contemplated taking up electrical engineering, radio repair, and even entering the Philippine Military Academy.

In 1954, he took up Nautical Science at the Philippine Nautical School (now the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy). "All because my friends decided to go there," he says.

Ross got his third mate's license in 1958, although his first job was as a lowly checker at the North Harbor. Five years later, he obtained his second mate's license.

In 1964, he married Marietta whom Ross describes as "a faithful, understanding mother." The children soon came one after the other.

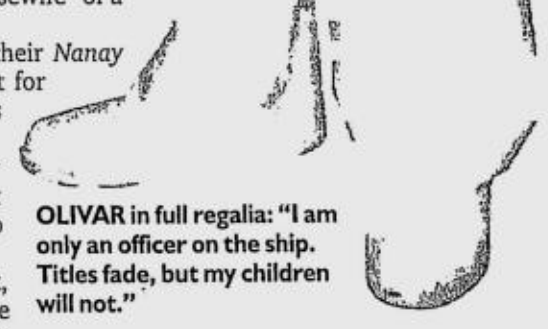
In 1970, Ross reached the rank of master or captain, earning his much-coveted stripes.

While Ross had boarded more than 31 ships and had gone around the world, Marietta was at the helm of the Olivar household, becoming more than a "plain housewife" of a seaman.

Christopher says that it was their *Nanay* Marietta who deserves the credit for bringing them up well despite his *Tatay*'s absence.

"I cannot claim to be the father figure in the family. The credit goes to *Nanay* who sacrificed so much for us," he says.

"When we were in need or sick, *Nanay* took care of us. She was the one who was always there," he adds, his voice trembling.



OLIVAR in full regalia: "I am only an officer on the ship. Titles fade, but my children will not."

But whenever Ross was in town, Marietta left it to Ross to discipline the kids.

Looking back, Christopher says he and his siblings had sometimes felt unloved because they were deprived of the toys and clothes that other children usually got from their fathers who also work as seamen.

It was only much later, he says, that they learned to appreciate their father's Spartan virtues.

In 1982, Ross built a spacious split-level house in Marikina City. He wanted his children to have enough space for them to study.

But it wasn't just their father's big earnings that enabled the Olivar siblings to finish their schooling, Christopher says. Credit should also be given to their upbringing and simple lifestyle, he adds.

Says Ross: "My eldest son would tell his siblings, 'If our father didn't leave us, where would we be? If our father weren't as stingy, where would we be? Could we have finished schooling?'"

Ross has stopped wearing his captain's uniform for eight years now. He keeps himself busy by teaching part-time at the Philippine Seafarers Training Center in Quiapo.

He feels more fulfilled seeing six college graduates in the family than his captain's stripes. "I'm only an officer whenever I'm on the ship. Titles fade, but my children will not."

'Lolo' seaman

Indeed, the six siblings have come a long way. All of them have married and kept separate careers. Except for Christopher and Charlemagne, they all now live apart from their father.

With Marietta's death in 2001 due to a heart ailment, the children make it a point to visit Ross at least once a month, bringing along his rambunctious grandchildren.

On weekends, his grandchildren run around the house, sometimes pausing to look at his collection of model ships. Christopher says his father has not lost his "old-school" upbringing, sometimes lecturing his grandchildren on good manners.

From a comfortable spot in the living room, Ross watches over his brood and their children with a fond gaze.

"They are my precious jewels" he says softly, squinting away tears. "I took care of them well that I may not lose them." His pride as a father and provider swells pleasantly in his chest, knowing that he had turned in a good harvest.

Facts on Filipino seamen

- **229,002** Seamen population (as of 2004)
- **247,707** Deployed seamen in 2005
- **US$ 1.7 billion** Remittances in 2005
- **Top 5** types of vessels Filipinos boarded in 2005
  1. Passenger
  2. Bulk Carrier
  3. Tanker
  4. Container
  5. Oil/Product Tanker
- **Top 5** Flag Registries* of vessels Filipinos boarded in 2005
  1. Panama
  2. Bahamas
  3. Liberia
  4. Singapore
  5. Marshall Island

* Flag of registry refers to country where the vessel is registered

SOURCES: COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS, PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION, BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS
COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, INQUIRER RESEARCH

When you really have to borrow money

By Francisco J. Colayco
Contributor

THE FAMILY OF AN OVERSEAS Filipino worker will always have relatives, friends, and neighbors who want to borrow from them. On the other hand, there are also situations when the remittance from the OFW is delayed and the family is forced to borrow in order to cover their requirements.

In many cases, people borrow without thinking of the cost because the need is quite urgent and they have no choice; the payment terms of lenders are affordable so that the borrower does not bother to compute the actual interest being charged; they don't know how to compute.

There are many types of lending operations.

Actually, the lender has the option of creating his own terms depending on what would be acceptable to the borrower.

Here are some terms and the effective interest rate of each.

- There is what they call "5-6." In this case, if one borrows, says P5,000 in the morning, the borrower has to pay P6,000 at the end of the day. Effectively, the interest is P1,000 over P5,000 or 20 percent in one day or the equivalent of 7,300 percent per year (365 days).
- Then, there are those who borrow P10,000 for five months and pay interest of P300 each month or 3 percent per month or P1,500 for the five months. The entire P10,000 is due at the end of the five months. The effective yearly interest rate for this kind of loan is 36 percent per year (1500/10000*12/5).
- Some borrow P10,000 for five months and only get P8,500 in cash. Then, they pay P1,000 every 15th and 30th of each of the five months. Actual cash interest paid is P1,500 but at the start of the period. The effective interest rate of this is 42.3% per year (1,500/8500*12/5)
- There is another variation where the entire P10,000 is received and payment is over 26 weeks. P1,000 on the 15th and 30th of 6 months (24 months) and P500 on the 25th and the 26th week. Cash paid is P13,000 and the effective interest rate of this is 55 percent per year (3000/10000*12/6.5)
- Again another way where P10,000 is received upfront and P600 is paid every 15th and 30th of each month for 10 months. Cash paid is P12,000 and the effective interest rate is 24 percent per year (2000/10000*12/10)

Are these fair interest rates or are they too expensive? My standard reply is that there is no such thing as an expensive loan provided you use the loan proceeds to generate income much higher than the cost of the loan.

For example, if you borrow P5,000 on "5-6" but you are able to earn P2,000 from the business in one day, then, the P1,000 interest you paid was worth it. You would not have been able to earn the net P1,000 if you did not borrow the P5,000 in the first place. This is good debt.

When you need to borrow for needs, you can only try to get the lowest interest rate possible. Needs are expenses that you cannot do without such as daily subsistence, food, utilities, medical needs and others that cannot be postponed.

However, borrowing for wants is a big no-no! It is like buying the item that you want but do not really need and cannot afford at a very high price. When you find out that you paid too much for an item, don't you feel bad? It is the same effect when you borrow at a high interest rate for something that is optional and that you can postpone to buy when you have the actual cash.

For those who do not have to borrow and have the money to lend, these are the same options open to you. However, you must remember that you have the following considerations and risks:

- Psychological effect of lending to people who are so hard-up.
- Not being paid on time.
- Not being paid at all.
- Being branded as someone who takes advantage of others. This can be unfair because you are actually providing a service to those who need help.

Francisco J. Colayco is an entrepreneur, a venture developer and financial advisor. He is the chair of the Colayco Foundation for Education and author of three bestsellers: Wealth Within Your Reach (2004 Book of the Year for Business and Economics Awardee), Making Your Money Work, and Pera Palaguin Workbook. Learn more about his advocacy on www.colaycofoundation.com or e-mail info@colaycofoundation.com The books are available at National Bookstores, PowerBooks, 0917-8537333, 02-6314446.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

WORLDBRIEFS

Gains in Iran talks

BRUSSELS, Belgium—The European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, offered Friday his most upbeat assessment to date on the nuclear impasse, insisting that talks to persuade Iran to suspend uranium enrichment were progressing. "I can say honestly that were making progress," he told reporters. "It doesn't mean that everything has been solved." In another sign that some headway is being made, a senior Bush administration official said later that Solana would meet with Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, in New York on Sunday. The official, and others cited in this article, insisted they not be quoted by name, following normal diplomatic protocol. The European Union is softening its previous position that Iran must suspend enrichment before any negotiations can begin. Instead, officials said, there was momentum behind a twin-track approach of starting negotiations before enrichment is halted while simultaneously allowing discussion of possible penalties against Iran to continue at the United Nations. The United States has insisted that Iran suspend enrichment before any negotiations can take place, though on Tuesday Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the administration might stop seeking to impose sanctions if Iran suspended enrichment. *NYT*

WHO: Cancer killed 7.5M in 2005

RABAT—Seven and a half million people worldwide died from cancer in 2005 and the number of cases in the Middle East is expected to soar over the next 15 years, Moroccan news agency MAP quoted the World Health Organization as saying on Friday. "More than 70 percent of these fatal cases were reported in low- and medium-income countries," WHO official Raouf Benammar told an international conference in Skhirat, near the Moroccan capital Rabat. Cancer of the uterus—the second most common form of cancer in women after breast cancer—caused the death of more than 250,000 women in 2005 and 80 percent of those cases were in developing countries, the WHO added. "Cancer is the fourth most common cause of death in the Eastern Mediterranean region after cardiovascular diseases, contagious disease and physical injuries caused by accidents," Benammar said. *AFP*

Pessimism in 'lucky' Australia

SYDNEY—A decade and a half of economic growth, rising incomes and a housing boom hasn't made Australians—traditionally proud of their country's "Lucky Country" moniker—any happier. A survey for the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper showed that only a quarter of the population of a country blessed with abundant sunshine, scenic beauty and a lifestyle much envied in many other countries think that life is getting better, while four in 10 believe things are getting worse. Factors behind the pessimism, the newspaper said, include the insecurity of rising mortgage repayments as well as long work hours, engendering a sense that wealth doesn't automatically bring happiness. Some 77 percent of the 1,000 respondents in the poll said the government should try and make them happier, not richer. *Reuters*

Anti-US front at NAM summit

HAVANA—Iran, Venezuela and other states opposed to US policy sought to forge a common front on Friday at a Non-Aligned summit that Cuban leader Fidel Castro was too ill to chair. The anti-US drive could displease other summit countries such as India and Pakistan who have forged closer relationships with Washington since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), called a relic of the Cold War by critics, is trying to redefine its role in a world where the United States is increasingly dominant and unpopular among many developing countries. It also comes in the context of impatience among some of its 118 members for reform of the United Nations, due to hold a general assembly in New York next week. *Reuters*

Trenches to ring Baghdad in face of rising violence

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SEAL off Baghdad within weeks by ringing it with a series of trenches and setting up dozens of traffic checkpoints to control movement in and out of the violent city of seven million people, an interior ministry spokesperson said Friday.

The effort is one of the most ambitious security projects this year, with cars expected to be funneled through 28 checkpoints along the main arteries snaking out from the capital. Smaller roads would be closed off. The trenches would run across farmland or other open areas to prevent cars from evading the checkpoints, said the ministry spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim Khalaf.

"We're going to build a trench around Baghdad so we can control the exits and entrances so people will be searched properly," he said in a telephone interview. "The idea is to get the cars to go through the 28 checkpoints that we set up."

American military officials said they were familiar with the plan, which the military has helped advise and which has been in the works for weeks. Khalaf said he did not know how much the construction would cost or how many laborers would be employed.

American commanders have made securing Baghdad their top priority. They have shifted troops from other parts of the country to Baghdad to try to contain the sectarian conflict raging in the capital, which threatens to plunge Iraq into all-out civil war. A security plan promoted in June by American officials and Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki involved setting up traffic checkpoints throughout Baghdad, but failed to quell the Sunni-Shiite sectarian violence, which reached a peak in July.

Last month, the Americans and the Iraqi government began a new tactic, flooding troubled neighborhoods with thousands of troops and doing searches block by block, then leaving battalions behind to try and win the confidence of residents.

That offensive began in southern and western Baghdad and is now moving into eastern neighborhoods controlled by the Mahdi Army, a powerful militia that answers to firebrand Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. *NYT*

UN reform one year later: Still incomplete

NEW YORK—THE AMBITIOUS UN REFORM project pushed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has made some progress but is still far from complete, one year after a world summit here set it in motion.

The discredited Human Rights Commission, which notorious rights abusers were able to join, has been replaced by the Human Rights Council, with stricter access and working rules but as yet an unproven track record.

The UN has also set up a peace consolidation commission to help countries out of a conflict and avoid recurring bloodshed. Its first cases are Sierra Leone and Burundi.

On Friday, the UN General Assembly adopted an antiterrorist strategy that includes respect for human rights and the rule of law, but still lacks a universal definition of terrorism. The ongoing debate is delaying a global convention on terrorism, one of the goals of the 2005 summit.

A summit first was UN member's willingness to use the Security Council, and even force when diplomacy fails, to help countries unable to protect their own people from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or ethnic cleansing.

Current events in Darfur, however, show there is often a chasm between good intentions and reality.

On the administrative level, some reforms have taken root—clearer recruitment procedures, stronger ethnic rules—to avoid UN scandals of the past like Iraq's "oil-for-food" program.

Annan also promised to bolster the secretariat and make a prompt reassessment of all UN mandates to rationalize its activities and revamp budgetary, management and human resource practices.

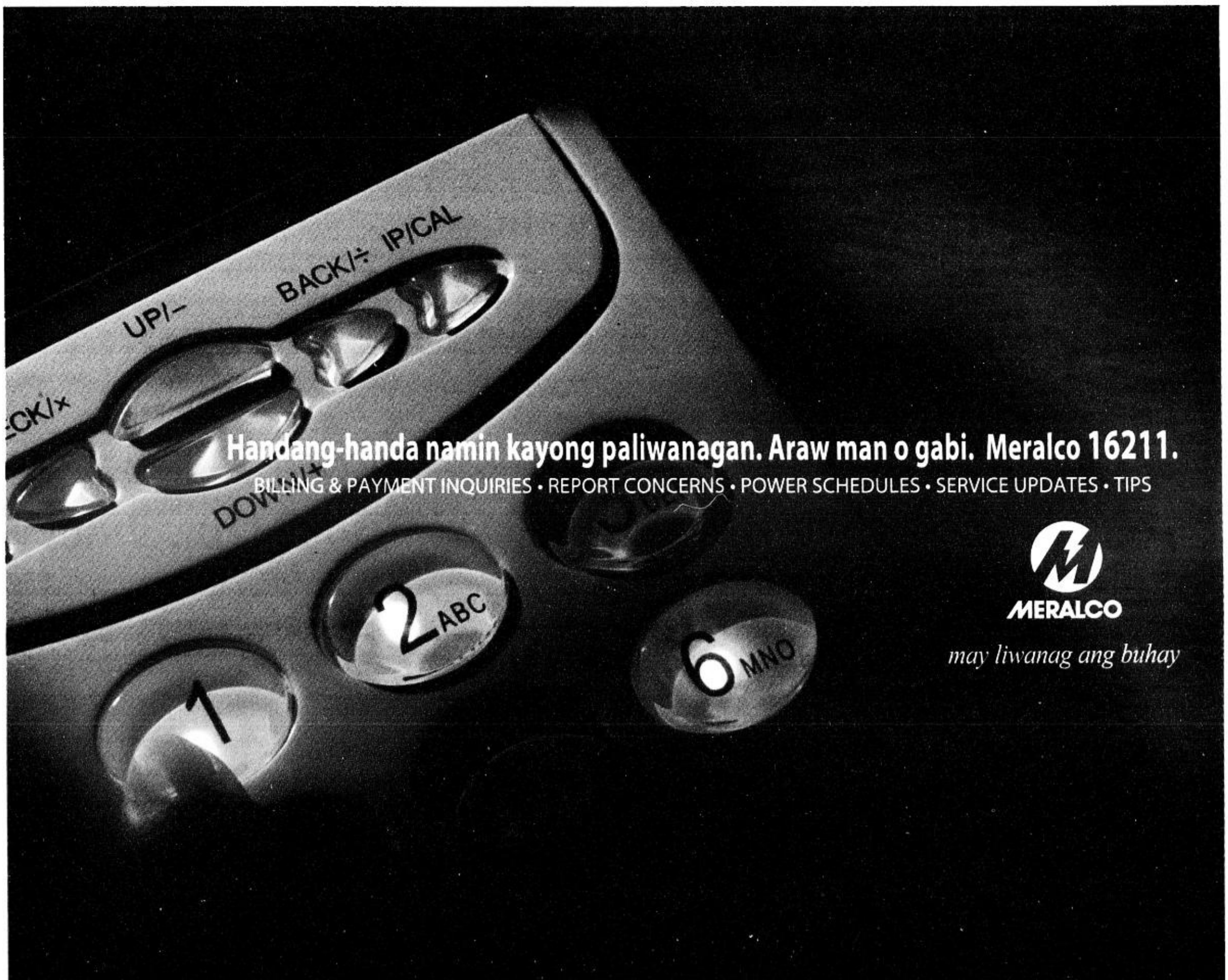
The United States, which supplies 22 percent of the UN budget, had been pushing for improvements in these areas.

This aspect of UN reform is now stymied amid complaints from developing nations about what they claim are efforts by rich nations to limit their prerogatives in the UN General Assembly.

Another idled reform project is disarmament and reanimating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

As to the proposed expansion of the Security Council, it is in complete standstill.

There is a general consensus that since the United Nations had grown from 50 to 192 members since its creation 51 years ago, the unchanged composition of the council—five permanent, 15 nonpermanent members—is out of touch with reality. *AFP*



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■ Eagles, Warriors go for title spots today /A22

EFREN Reyes: Still unstoppable.

Bata gains 9-ball semis

JAKARTA—FILIPINO POOL ICON EFREN "Bata" Reyes, remained untouchable in the final leg of the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour, ousting Korean Jeong Young-Hwa, 9-6, yesterday to reach the semifinals at the Mutiara ballroom of the Gran Melia Jakarta Hotel here.

The 52-year-old Reyes, winner of the record purse of $500,000 in ruling the International Pool Tour World 8-Ball Open championship in the US recently, advanced against Indonesian Muhammad Zulfikri, who bested the other Filipino survivor, Rodoldo "Boy Samson" Luat, 9-8.

Two Taiwanese, reigning world pool champion Wu Chia-ching and Wang Hung-hsiang, were waiting to take on their opponents at presstime. Wu is set to battle Indon Ricky Yang, while Wang will go up against Japanese Masaaki Tanaka.

Reyes and Jeong seemingly disregarded the pressure, managing to joke around at the start of their match to the delight of the audience.

However, when the score remained tied at two racks apiece, Reyes turned on the heat in the next three racks to take a 5-2 lead.

From there, the two cue artists showed their pocketing skills as they traded rack runs until the match ended at 9-6 with the Filipino on top.

Luat, winner of the Kaohsiung leg, was leading early in his match, but Zulfikri regaled the hometown crowd with the come-from-behind victory.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego bowed out after suffering losses in the group stage last Friday. Bustamante lost to Taiwanese Wang Hung-hsiang, 6-9, and Chinese Li He-wen, 1-9. Gallego, on the other hand, was routed by Japanese Masaaki Tanaka, 1-9. Although Gallego won his second match against Indonesian Apsi Chaniago, 9-2, he lost out due to the points system of the tournament.

The semifinals and finals, which will be both race to 11, will be aired live on Star Sports starting at noon today.

The top 10 finishers in the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour Order of Merit will automatically enter the 2006 World Pool Championship set in Manila in November.

The champion of each leg will earn the top prize of $10,000.

Pacquiao leaves; Gabi fight off

FILIPINO RING ICON MANNY PACQUIAO will leave for the United States tonight to continue his training at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym for his rubber match with Mexican Erik Morales on Nov. 18 in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao, who will be accompanied by his business associate Rex "Wakee" Salud, lawyer Geng Gacal, Filipino trainers Restituto Fernandez and Nonoy Neri, boxer Ernel Fontanilla, and a slew of supporters, will take a Philippine Airlines flight PR 102 bound for Los Angeles at 10 p.m. and will report for training a day after arrival.

Plans for Pacquiao to be at ringside for today's Marco Antonio Barrera-Rocky Juarez World Boxing Council super featherweight title showdown were scuttled after Pacquiao decided to spend more time with his family.

PACQUIAO

Pacquiao and Morales are scheduled to attend a press conference arranged by Bob Arum's Top Rank on Sept. 19 at the Salon Rodeo Room of the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Filipino Diosdado Gabi will not be seeing action in the undercard of the Barrera-Juarez title rematch at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

According to Pacland's Brad Cooney, Gabi's manager Roach had revealed that the Filipino's opponent had pulled out of the fight at the last minute, and that Golden Boy Promotions, which promotes Gabi, could not find a suitable opponent in time for the big event.

"Roach told me that he thought they may have had a replacement but he was from Mexico, and he couldn't get his paperwork together in time," said Cooney. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

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Sept. 26 (Tue) - Sugarfree
Sept. 27 (Wed) - Updharmadown
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See posters and print ads for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 3388 Series of 2006.

Amacu nips STI, nears crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PATRICK MERCADO CAME through with a big three-pointer in the last two minutes as AMA Computer nipped STI, 74-70, yesterday to move within a win from the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

The burly forward didn't wait for the STI defense to settle before flinging the booming trey to give the Titans a 73-68 cushion en route to the Game 1 triumph in the best-of-three title series.

The Titans will try to take the title, the league's first which won't bore the name of fallen superpower University of Manila, in Game 2 on Wednesday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The 6-foot-5 Chito Jaime, a prized rookie, finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Titans, who trailed for the most part and entered the fourth quarter trailing, 50-54. Mercado backed him up with 12 points.

The scores:

AMACU 74—Jaime 23, Zablan 15, Mercado 12, Franco 6, Galang 4, Gabica 4, Galvez 3, Abac 3, Vergara 2, De Guzman 1, Dela Peña 1, Suarez 0, Padilla 0.

STI 70—Micutuan 19, Porto 15, Rufin 14, Macalma 6, Cabangon 6, Lunar 4, Perez 3, Legaspi 2, San Luis 1, Belano 0, Junatas 0, Dia 0.

Quarters: 22-19, 32-40, 54-50, 74-70.

Alabang tops eliminations

DAVAO CITY—FORMER ASIAN 3.2A ZONAL champion International Master Ronald Dableo beat National Master Ronald Llavanes to lift Barangay Alabang (Muntinlupa "V") to a 2.5-1.5 victory over Quezon City and the top of the elimination round Saturday in the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championships at the Gaisano Mall here.

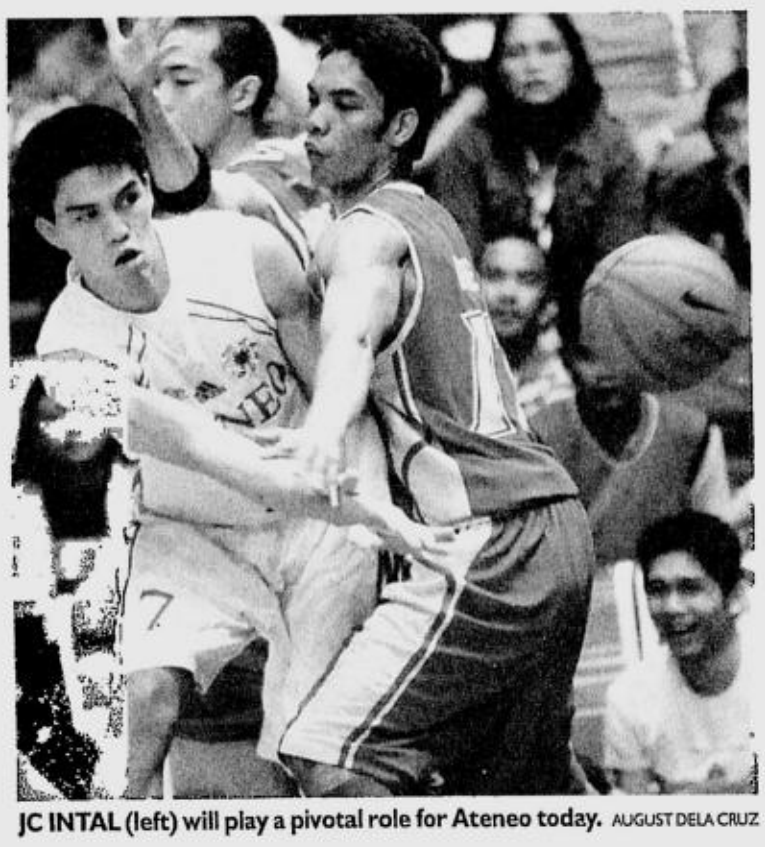
The 26-year-old Dableo, bound for the Doha Asian Games, prevailed with black in 66 moves of a French Defense on board 2.

IM Darwin Laylo, Rhobel Legaspi and Noel dela Cruz ended their games in draws on board 1, 3 and 4, respectively.

The team, backed by Barangay Alabang chair Victor Ulanday, has 6.5 points to edge PNP-Quezon City, which bested Cantilan (Surigao del Sur), 2.5-1.5, en route to 6.0 points.

Carrascal (Surigao del Sur), one of the teams supported by National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay landed at No. 3 after accumulating 5.5 points. Carrascal stunned Barangay Alabang (Muntinlupa "U"), 3-1, following the victories of NM Emmanuel Senador and Fide Master Adrian Ros Pacis over Alabang's GM Nelson Mariano II and IM Oliver Dimakiling, respectively. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Eagles, Warriors go for title spots today



JC INTAL (left) will play a pivotal role for Ateneo today. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

TOP SEEDS ATENEO AND UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST AIM FOR A quick finish in the UAAP basketball semifinals today.

Although picked as favorites, the Blue Eagles and the Warriors know their twice-to-beat incentives hardly intimidate their Final Four opponents who are equally determined to reach the championship series.

The Eagles will take on the Adamson Falcons at 2 p.m., while the Warriors will battle the Santo Tomas Tigers at 4 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

"If you are complacent in the first game, your advantage is out the window already," said Ateneo coach Norman Black.

The Eagles will be facing an eager Adamson crew, who advanced to the Final Four for the first time since the format was implemented in 1994.

A confident UST squad is also standing in the way of the preseason favorite Warriors.

"The players worked hard, trained well and we have a system," said Tigers coach Pido Jarencio. "If we're given a chance to enter the Finals, the players deserve it. They wanted it and worked hard for it."

The Warriors and the Tigers split their elimination games this season. UST ruled their first encounter with a 91-77 stunner, but UE got even with a 74-63 decision in the second round.

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
8:30 a.m.—UP vs UST (Women)
10 a.m.—Ateneo vs FEU (Women)
12 noon—Adamson vs FEU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs UST (Srs)

Black also had a few reminders for his wards before battling the Falcons, who bowed to the Eagles by the slimmest of margins in the elimination round.

"As of last game, we are the leading rebounder in the league," noted Black. "But in the games where we struggled, we did not rebound the ball very well. It's a matter of focus and concentration."

The Eagles slipped past the Falcons, 73-72, in their first meeting, then followed it up with another 66-65 heart-stopper in the second round.

Expected to lead the Eagles are Chris Tiu and JC Intal, who's also tightly contesting the Most Valuable Player award against Adamson center Ken Bono. *Jasmine W. Payo*

SPORTSWATCH

Manila hoops league kicks off

A TOTAL OF 48 SCHOOL-BASED TEAMS FROM 44 SCHOOLS ARE SEEING ACtion in the 2006 Metro Manila Futures Basketball League (FBL) that opens today at the Meralco Fitness Center Gym in Ortigas, Pasig, with five games on tap starting at 10 a.m. Led by defending midgets division champions San Beda-Alabang and Ateneo de Manila in the mini division, there are 26 midget teams entered, 17 teams in the mini division, and five girls' teams without defending champion St. Scholastica's College which could not form a team this year. Sponsored by Primovit Multivitamin Capsules, Smart Bro, Gatorade Thirst Quencher and Accord Capital, this year's inaugural regional tournament for Mindanao, held in Davao City, had 20 schools in the field. The Luzon edition, which starts on Oct. 20 in the City of San Fernando already has 30 schools confirmed while for the Visayas regional starting on Nov. 4 in Cebu City, 16 schools have signed to date.

Tatap national age-group up Oct. 4

THE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES RETURNS WITH A bang as the National Age-group championships reel off Oct. 4 to 8 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium and SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Launching Tatap's grass-roots program, the age-group is the first major event under reelected president Victor Valbuena, who vowed to organize more competitions to revitalize the sport. The 12 categories on tap are boys' and girls' singles 10-and-under, 12-and-under, 14-and-under, 17-and-under, men's and women's singles Open, and men's and women's team competitions. Cash prizes and trophies will be at stake in the event supported by Sportshouse and the Philippine Sports Commission. Eliminations will be on Oct. 4 and 5 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium with the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals on Oct. 6 and 8 at the SM Megamall. Entry fee for the age-group categories is P100, P200 for the men's and women's singles and P500 for the team events. Registration ends on Sept. 29. Call 552-1885 and 484-0777.

Sultan bows to Russian

REIGNING PAN-ASIA BOXING ASSOCIATION (PABA) WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPION Dondon Sultan lost in a 10-round non-title fight yesterday to Russian Anton Solopov at the Icesport Center, Khanty-Mansiysk, in Russia. Solopov, who was dethroned by Sultan in their previous outing, beat the Filipino this time in the junior middleweight class. Sultan earned $6,000, although he could be stripped of the title, as the Paba can invoke its rule "that a reigning champ who loses in a non-title bout can lose his title." In their first encounter, Sultan knocked out Solopov in less than one round to win the Paba welterweight title. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

The Lakeshore hosts NAGT 5th leg

THE LAKESHORE IN MEXICO, PAMPANGA, HOSTS THE 5TH LEG OF THE 2006 Speedo-National Age Group Triathlon (NAGT) series today with more than a hundred bets expected. The main event consists of a 1K swim-27K bike-7.6K run distance with multi-titled and current Speedo-NAGT series leader George Vilog expected to add another title to his earlier wins in the Davao and UP-Los Baños legs. The event is also sponsored by PowerBar, David's Salon and Day's Spa, and the Asian Centre for Insulation Phils. Local sponsors are Nestea, Viva Mineral Water, Powerade, Pampanga's Best and Lifestyle's Intra.

Pangasinan hosts Little Olympics

THE 2006 MILO LITTLE OLYMPICS-LUZON IS SET ON SEPT. 22, 23, 24, 30 AND Oct. 1 at the Narciso Ramos Sports & Civic Center in Lingayen, Pangasinan, and CSI Mall, Lucao Dist. in Dagupan City. Events on tap are athletics, badminton, chess, football, gymnastics, lawn tennis, sepak takraw, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball. The most-awaited side event is the cheer dance competition which is open to elementary and secondary public and private schools, in cooperation with Philippine Olympics Committee and the Department of Education. For inquiries, call Tess Bernardino 0920-557-9488/(075) 662-2348.

LGBA derby set at Araneta Coliseum

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION 5-STAG DERBY SERIES will have its second leg at the Araneta Coliseum Sept. 25, 27 and 29. LGBA president Rene Diaz said that 125 fights or more will be staged per day, using the "straight five stags" format. Seven participants emerged as champions in the first leg, held Aug. 29, 31, Sept. 5 and 8 at three venues (Araneta Coliseum, Malvar Sports Complex and Bacolor Cockpit). They were Benny Lim (Sangre Guerrero), Edwin Ramos (AP Topgun), Joey Mendoza (RP Tagapo Farm), Dalwin Yulangco (Angel Ace Supreme), Boy Gamilla and Raffy Campos (BMJ DMCA Red), Louie Madlambayan and Edwin Jingco (LDM and EJ) and Edwin Aranez and Mimi Itchon (BMJ Mimi Red I). Backing the series are Lakpue Drug Inc., Asvet, Thunderbird, Purina, Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace. Call 926-7808, 924 or 924-5051 (loc 128).

GCAP derby set Wednesday

TOUGH BATTLE LOOMS AT SAN JUAN COLISEUM WHEN THE GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby sizzles at San Juan Coliseum on Wednesday with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The second leg of GCAP's stagfighting series will feature 70 fights or more. Just like in the first leg held Sept. 6 (won by new GCAP member Ricky Valencia), the "red-flag" format will again be adopted. "It means that everyone will be pitted against anybody and requests for no fight against a particular participant will not be entertained," said GCAP stalwart Patrick Antonio. For details, call 725-5369 and 725-6563.

MVP leads 25-man board of cage body

By Musong R. Castillo

BUSINESS TYCOON MANNY V. Pangilinan will head the new cage body's 25-man executive board composed mostly of the old officials of the two basketball groups.

The 60-year-old chair and president of Smart Communications and PLDT was the only "neutral" personality named in the roster, which will be comprised of 12 men each coming from the Basketball Association of the Philippines and Pilipinas Basketball.

Joey Lina, the former senator and BAP president, and Bernie Atienza, his counterpart at PB, lead their respective sides in the board whose composition will have to get the nod of Pangilinan before Samahang Basketbol Pilipinas, the agency's new name, seeks recognition from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the new name on Friday and the body will sign its newly drafted articles of incorporation tomorrow before returning the same to the SEC for registration as a non-stock, non-profit organization.

A reliable source said that the BAP had nominated Lito Alvarez, Wilson Young, Boni Alentajan and Christian Tan, among others, to the executive board.

The four are among 66 listed members of the BAP, which the three-man panel will scrutinize further to avoid duplication of representation.

Pilipinas Basketball, on the other hand, nominated PBA board members Ricky Vargas, Ely Capacio and Tony Chua. PBA commissioner Noli Eala, Jun-Jun Capistrano, who represents the UAAP, Pedro Alfaro (Zamboanga), Elmer Cabahug (Cebu), Daniel Soria (Baguio), Fr. Paul de Vera (Southern Luzon), Nic Jorge (youth) and Paul Supan (NCAA) were the others nominated by PB.

Only the Philippine Basketball League was not nominated by Atienza's PB.

Guidicelli gears up for Shell kart plum

ACE KARTER MATTEO Fernan Guidicelli of Alessandra Racing has gone into an intensive physical and mental conditioning in preparation for the championship leg of the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series in November.

GUIDICELLI

He's back at a familiar position. For the third straight year, the Karter of the Year award is again in his arm's reach following his strong finish in Cebu last weekend that regained the top spot in the title race with 401 points, 11 ahead over rival Marlon Stockinger with 390.

Clinching his first KOY plum two years back, Guidicelli could have made it back to back last year if not for the controversial decision that denied his chance into the history book as the youngest karter to achieve such a feat.

And only the Karter of the Year award would free him from the trauma of that controversy.

"I admit the stigma is still in my mind," said Guidicelli. "But I am thankful to the Automobile Association Philippines led by motorsports director Mandy Eduque for giving me the assurance and continuing to uphold fair conduct of the races."

Guidicelli is backed by Petron, Penshoppe, Pepsi, Addict Mobile, Swatch, Animax and Rudy Project.

Compared to last year, Guidicelli has become more matured in his racing career.

Superamerica eyes repeat

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—SUPERAMERICA AND Que Sera Sera shoot for repeat victories against basically the same fields they conquered a month ago when the second leg of the 2006 Juvenile Stakes series is flagged off today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Superamerica, the Khozaam out of Sign of Spring son who ruled the Colts' division with ease over Mr. Cutter, will be hard-pressed to repeat under Fernando Raquel in the 1,500-meter race despite the depleted number of entries.

The only newcomer in the Colts' division is Pacman, an entry from the mighty Hermie Esguerra stables who will be mounted by Louie Balboa and who could go down as the first choice owing to an impressive performance two weeks ago.

Named after boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, Pacman clocked 1 minute and 26 seconds in humbling Superamerica over 1,400 meters at the Santa Ana Park, a loss that burst the seeming bubble of invincibility Superamerica worked hard to put up in the first leg.

Macho Man, the bay son of tested stallion Account of Grace out of Tumataginting, will be Pacman's coupled entry in the seven-horse, six-betting-number race that offers P720,000.

Que Sera Sera, on the other hand, is the logical choice in the Fillies' division under new rider John Alvin Guce, who was tapped to take the place of canned class B jockey Jeffryl T. Zarate.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race1—(Qrt/Tri)—Romblon Rock/Magic Bullet (4), Lady Victoria (6), Mandalay Bay (3), Heart of the Wind (5)
Race 2—(Qrt//Tri)—Don Peri Pink (7), Air Force One (2), U Are My Sunshine (1), Dixie the Younger 96)
Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Business Class (11), Military Might (6), Fanciful (12), Gundam (10), Afternoon Delight/Defiant (1)
Race 5—(Tri)—Landed Visa/Condoleesa (1), Que Sera Sera (4), Lancia Stratos (2)
Race 6—(Tri)—Golden Sutter (5), Grey Angel (6), Barako (3)
Race 7—(Qrt/TRi)—Superamerica (1), Pacman/Macho Man (4), Limited Edition (5), EJ's Magic (7)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—King Foppy (3), GY Speed Ball (6), Grew Cut (6), Donna Messier (4), Tellmemolies (7)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Iverson (1), Interceptor (2), Smooth Strike/Lucky Strike (4), Jayvie's Godfather (5), Alitaptap (7), King Aljhun (10)
Race 10—(Qrt/TRi)—Long Hitter (3), Mika's Pride (2), Guided Missile (4), Blod Lucky (1)
Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/TRi)—Tiedil Forever (7), High Riser/Ikaw Lamang (11), Long Road (10), Vinfa's Pride (5), Golden Africa (9)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Rebecca's Magic (4), Ayan Na Ko (2), Step on the Gas (7), Burst of Speed (3), Xtreme Heat (8)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Play It Again (7), Lovable Trisha (8), Gentleman's Lady (4), Music Quest (1), Summly Force (9), Morning Glory (11).

Renz virtual champ

CATCH RENZ PAZCOguin if you can.

The 12-year-old Pazcoguin, a grade six student at the Sun Hwa International Academy in Antipolo, gained enough points to practically wrap up the championship in the mini-rok division going into the final leg in Carmona, Cavite, of the 2006 Shell National Karting Series.

PAZCOGUIN

Pazcoguin is coming off a decisive victory in the Cebu City stage held Sept. 9-10.

Despite experiencing engine trouble during the qualifying stage, Pazcoguin still emerged with the fastest time at the Cebu Kart Zone.

Pazcoguin, whose racing stints are being sponsored by OZ Racnig, VB Steel, MBQ, Industria, C2 Energy Drink, Greco Phils., and Otto Shoes, already had 65 points before the Cebu stage, and padded it to 100-plus points after the 22-lap final.

He also earned the distinction of winning back-to-back stages in Cebu.

Italy tour, F1 car ride await MRRS finalists

A TRIP TO THE VERANO AND Fiorano Circuits in Italy, including a tour of the Ferrari factory, and a ride inside a real F1 car with a certified F1 driver.

These are the top prizes that are expected to lure more than 400,000 entries for the 2007 Marlboro Red Racing School which was successfully launched with an MRRS party Sept. 9 at the Bagaverde on Roxas Boulevard.

In the end, only five men and women will relish the experience as the ultimate survivors.

During the affair, Bagaberde was transformed into a sporty party-place, complete with replicas of an F1 racing car and a track suit, plus a Ducati motorcycle and red-clad models selling Marlboro packs with the MRRS design.

The next MRRS party will be on Sept. 29 at Pump in Cebu City, a first in the event's three-year history. The third and last will be held at the Dish Bar in Quezon City.

Marlboro Brand Manager Eric Carandang of the organizing Philip Morris Phils. Manufacturing Inc., said this year's MRRS offers many "firsts."

"This year's MRRS promo is going to be a lot bigger and better," said Carandang. "From the 300,000 who signed up last year, we are now targeting at least 400,000 entries. Since the start of the promo on Aug. 28, our people have been to key cities in the country to spread the word about MRRS."

Adopting the "Win the Ride, Rip the Track" slogan, the MRRS makes it easy for people to join. Through its website www.racing.ph, an official sign-up form can be downloaded. Entry forms are also available in bars and convenience stores.

CHESS MOA: Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. (left) and Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno sign the memorandum of agreement for the staging of the P550,000 2006 National Inter Provincial Chess Team Championship on Oct. 26-31 at the Limketkei mall in Cagayan de Oro City. For more info, call Willie Abalos at (0920) 487-1453.

Juarez seeks payback in rematch vs Barrera

LAS VEGAS—ROCKY JUAREZ WALKED OUT of the ring after his last fight with Marco Antonio Barrera pleased with his performance and at peace with the decision of the judges that the fight was a draw.

A few minutes later, sitting on a bench in his dressing room, he got the bad news: Errors in adding up the scorecards meant he actually lost the fight.

"I just put my head down and didn't say anything," Juarez said. "What could I say?"

It wasn't the first time in his career that Juarez had to deal with disappointment. In the gold medal final of the 2000 Olympics, he lost a decision that might have been different had the referee stopped his opponent from continually holding.

Unlike that decision, Juarez gets a chance to avenge this loss. He takes on Barrera in a rematch Saturday night for the WBC super featherweight title he felt he should have won in their first fight May 20 in Los Angeles.

"I know the mistakes I made in the first fight and I know what I have to do to correct them," Juarez said. "This is going to be a different fight."

Most in the crowd at the first fight thought it was Barrera making the mistakes. They jeered when the draw was announced, thinking the aggressiveness and power punching of the challenger was enough to beat the legendary Mexican fighter who has held titles in three different weight classes.

Juarez wasn't that unhappy himself, just puzzled that he didn't get the decision.

"I felt a draw was better than a loss. We felt we had won but we were willing to take the draw," he said. "We were fighting in California and it was (promoter) Oscar De La Hoya's and Barrera's backyard, so what could we do?"

Juarez went back to Houston, watched tapes of the fight repeatedly, and began picking apart all the mistakes he made in the bout.

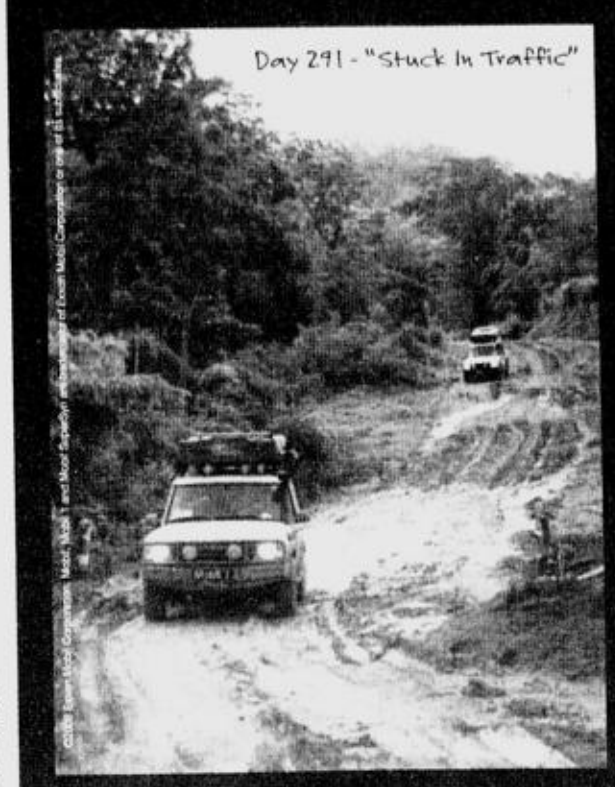
"I said he's going to go back home and he's going to see that even his own fans and the people back in Mexico thought he lost the fight," Juarez said. "And that's going to make him want to fight me again." *AP*

JUAREZ AFP

RP blows World Cup bid

KUALA LUMPUR—SINGAPORE AND ITALY SECURED places at the World Cup on Saturday, but India, Malaysia and Hong Kong missed out on the showpiece event. Also failing to stage a rally was the Philippine team of Juvic Pagunsan and Gerald Rosales, who closed out with another 74 in the foursomes (alternate shot) format to finish in a tie for seventh with Finland at 282. The Filipinos, who tied for the lead at the halfway mark, shot 64-74-70 in the first three rounds. In the last qualifying round at Seri Selangor Golf Club, Singapore's Mardan Mamat and Lam Chih Bing came through with a one-under-par 70 in the foursomes format to finish top with 13-under-par 271. *AFP*

"When you're up to your axles in mud, you really appreciate your oil."



Mobil 1

It had been the worst monsoon season in ten years. In some places, the famous Burma Road had ceased to be a road at all.

"We were constantly red-lining the engines," says Nick Baggarly, the expedition leader of Drive Around The World, a 66,000 kilometer expedition raising funds to cure Parkinson's disease. "To handle those intense temperatures, we had to have the advanced protection of Mobil 1."

In laboratory tests, Mobil 1's SuperSyn Anti-Wear technology keeps engines performing like new, even after 340,000 kilometers. But the real test is in the real world.

"With Mobil 1, your engine's protected in any condition," continues Baggarly. "I wouldn't want to get stuck with anything else."

FREE Fair Weather Tent for every purchase of 4 liters of Mobil 1 Engine Oil

Promo period is from September 15 – November 15, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4113, Series of 2006.

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SEPTEMBER 27 DRAW

SEPTEMBER 26 DRAW

SEPTEMBER 25 DRAW

SEPTEMBER 24 DRAW

SEPTEMBER 23 DRAW

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₱10 AUTOLOAD MAX *Pinakamababang Autoload!*	Para lang sa TM subscribers, puwede kang magpa-AutoloadMAX ng P10 lang! At may PAPISO-PISONG dagdag pa (P11, P12, etc up to P150)! Abot-kaya talaga dahil ang gaan sa bulsa mag-load! Puwede pang pan-tawag at pang-text!
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Website: www.inq7money.net

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Text us your feedback: Inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

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AyalaLand PREMIER

Our newest neighborhood, Wood Park, now open for reservations.

New Anvaya Cove neighborhood offers intimate brushes with nature

A community that allows its residents to live close to wooded areas, the soothing sounds of a brook and other natural amenities and while enjoying intimate ties with one another is the vision behind Wood Park - the newest neighborhood in Anvaya Cove. Anvaya Cove is Ayala Land Premier's 1st leisure seaside development located in Morong, Bataan.

The seven-hectare neighborhood which has an elevation ranging from 50 to 70 meters is also dotted with parkia javanica or cupang trees. It is a short drive away from Ilingin Cove and the amenities of the Nature Club. "Wood Park has been designed as a nature retreat where one can enjoy a hilly environment and at the same time have quick access to beach and sea amenities," according to Bong Gonzalez, project development manager.

Wood Park is one of several neighborhoods in Anvaya Cove - each with its own distinct features. Set in a lush, open area, this neighborhood has a brook running through the property also has glimpses of the sea and sunset.

The Brookside lots run parallel to the brook lined by mature trees and shrubs. A bridge crossing the brook provides a sweeping view of the area. On the southern part of the neighborhood are the Greenview lots which offer a vista of lush open spaces in undulating terrain. The Leisure lots provide homeowners a sunset view.

To further enhance the neighborhood's courtside view of the fading, afternoon sun, planners of Wood Park has located a Sunset Park at the heart of the neighborhood. Wood Park's Sunset Drive will naturally offer motorists and promenaders glimpses of the sea and the natural finale of many Anvaya afternoons.

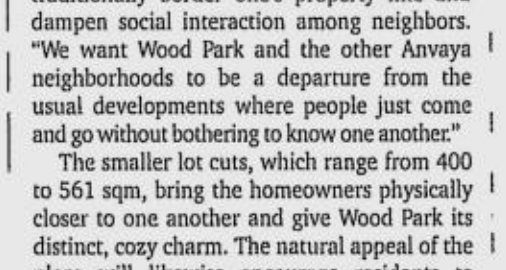
Like the rest of the Anvaya neighborhoods, Wood Park will be a fenceless community. Homeowners will be strongly discouraged from erecting the usual cement fences that traditionally border one's property line and dampen social interaction among neighbors. "We want Wood Park and the other Anvaya neighborhoods to be a departure from the usual developments where people just come and go without bothering to know one another."

The smaller lot cuts, which range from 400 to 561 sqm, bring the homeowners physically closer to one another and give Wood Park its distinct, cozy charm. The natural appeal of the place will likewise encourage residents to spend most of their time outdoors.

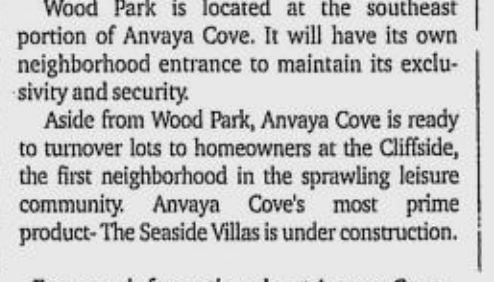
Wood Park is located at the southeast portion of Anvaya Cove. It will have its own neighborhood entrance to maintain its exclusivity and security.

Aside from Wood Park, Anvaya Cove is ready to turnover lots to homeowners at the Cliffside, the first neighborhood in the sprawling leisure community. Anvaya Cove's most prime product- The Seaside Villas is under construction.

For more information about Anvaya Cove, please call 728-7000 or visit its website at www.anvayacove.com or www.ayalalandpremier.com.



Wood Park's Brookside Trails - Enter the neighborhood by crossing a bridge over a natural brook lined by picturesque trails



Sunset Drive will naturally offer motorists and promenaders glimpses of the sea

I didn't get to keep the starfish... I didn't keep the sea cucumber either. But I'm keeping the badge the marine ranger gave me!

Welcome to Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club – only 20 minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport. Here, friendly Marine Rangers introduce kids (and adults too) to the most fascinating creatures in their seaside habitat.

Anvaya Cove is a seaside leisure community developed by Ayala Land Premier in Morong, Bataan. Stake your claim to paradise by owning a membership share. Build your vacation home amidst stunning sea views or verdant forests. Or perhaps invest in one of Anvaya's luxury villas with its own private pool.

Family time. Endless summers.

ANVAYA COVE
Seaside Leisure Community

For purchase inquiries on villas, lots, and club shares call (632) 728-7000 or (632) 892-3333 • anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph • www.anvayacove.com

Not an enviable life, but one laden with kindness

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MANUEL L. Wong's early life may not have been one others would envy but it was laden with kind people along the path that eventually it was recognition of his own goodness and trustworthiness that made him give up the more lucrative world of entrepreneurship for employment.

Wong was on board a bus from China to Hong Kong, exploring new business opportunities when a phone call made him shift gears, and leave all the business deals he was finalizing.

And his reason for accepting the job was not because it offered him more money but simply because the company offered him their trust and confidence.

And while the firm asked him to name his price and conditions, he did not quote a figure. He simply accepted the job, happy of the firm's faith in him.

Wong's case sounds slightly unbelievable but for a man who sent himself through college in a country where he did not even even speak the language at the start, anything is possible.

Wong is the general manager of Acer Philippines, one of the biggest sellers of laptop computers in the country today and the biggest in Taiwan, its home base. Although he speaks Filipino fluently today, he only learned this when he was a college freshman.

Wong's grandfather came to the Philippines before the Japanese war. His father followed and helped the older Wong run several stores in Divisoria. Wong's father went back to China to get married but returned to Manila to help the family business, leaving his wife and a growing family.

In 1949, when China became communist, many fled the Red Army. One of those who left was Wong's mom who went to Hong Kong with her brood. Wong's father would occasionally visit his family in Hong Kong.

During that time there were stricter immigration laws for the

ACER Philippine general manger Manuel Wong

Chinese coming to the Philippines.

"I met my dad a few times," Wong says adding that he was much closer to his mother.

Home in Hong Kong was a one-room shack which he shared with his mother and four siblings.

His mother knitted for a garments company to earn. "I would help with the yarn. That was our source of income," he recalls.

In high school, displaying a great aptitude for Math, Wong earned his own keep by tutoring younger kids math. Wong says his tutoring fees were enough to pay for his allowance. He dreamt of becoming a doctor or engineer.

IT TOOK him six years to finish college but he did it on his own.

A turning point came when his father passed away in 1977 and he had to go to Manila for the wake. His mother had gone the previous year to care for his father.

It was supposed to be a temporary stay but a kind aunt told the young Wong she would help him get into a college if he wanted to stay in Manila. By this time, Wong had already finished pre-university in Hong Kong.

FIRST JOB

His aunt got him a tutor to help him learn Filipino, while a cousin helped him apply in a college. He got into Adamson University and studied Chemical Engineering.

His mother also decided to stay in Manila. Wong was a self-supporting student, working in an accounting firm from 8 am to 3 pm in Makati and then rushing to Manila to attend evening classes.

For six years he was focused on study and work.

After college he worked as a sales man for a trading firm called Monina, owned by the family of his future wife, Ruby.

"My father in law was very kind to me," he says.

His in-laws' family owns the Salazar Bakery in Binondo and the famous President Restaurant.

After a few years Wong ventured on his own opening a shop at the Makati Cinema Square.

"I developed a deep interest in personal computers in 1986 when technology began to be exciting and popular. In 1988, I saw the business opportunity of setting up an IT retail outlet in Makati and the rest was history" he says.

Eventually he became part of a group that acquired the distributorship of Acer laptops. However problems came about that eventually led to his leaving the group and seeking the road of entrepreneurship together with his wife.

Which is why it caught him by surprise when the Taiwanese called him and offered him the top post of the Philippine operations when they bought out the group.

Wong asked for a week to think

THE PYRAMIDS serve as a backdrop for Manuel and Agnes Wong

the decision over and consult his wife who supported his move.

In 1986, I married my wife Ruby and was blessed with 4 beautiful children. I am very lucky that even with my busy working schedules, my family have been very supportive of me. In return, I tried my best to spend quality time with them by spending weekends watching movie together, traveling and eating out. Sometimes I let my family join me in my Acer & Rotary activities, too.

"I strongly believe that we should practice honesty, trustworthiness, moral uprightness and consideration for the welfare of others. To avoid conflicts between family and colleagues, I maintain an open line of communication with them. I want to be remembered for my honesty and sincerity in everything I do," he says.

Wong feels that "one of the reasons for my success as a General Manager is the proper delegation of authority. Acer is known for its commitment of "Empowering People". As part of the Acer family, it is my responsibility to help grow the business. Our success in achieving our goal is based on the foundation of trust we build among our distributors, dealers, partners, etc.,

WONG with his family in an outdoor trip.

Acer recently became the top selling laptop brand in the country. Wong attributes this to a good team and hardwork.

"Cliché as it may sound, I believe that children are our future. That's why, if we educate our children, then we develop their future as well. Despite the economic crisis, it never occurred to me to leave the Philippines. The Philippines is rich in manpower, natural resources and in culture. We just have to learn how to put it in good use. If we can preserve the good in our society and encourage our talented fellowmen to stay, I believe that one day, we will see our country develop and provide a brighter future to all."

Treating water with just the sun and gravity

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

BAYAWAN CITY—TALK OF wastewater treatment plants and the first thing that would probably come to mind are big and expensive steel or cement structures with big pipes going in all directions.

But a small fishing settlement in Barangay Villareal of this city is showing that a treatment plant for wastewater could be devoid of that industrial look, relying only on the sun and gravity to function to its full capacity. These are called constructed or artificial wetlands.

The five-year-old City of Bayawan, located some 100 kilometers south of Negros Oriental's capital city of Dumaguete, made a giant leap in environmental protection by becoming the first local government unit in the country to construct and maintain its own artificial wetlands with technical assistance from the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ).

The 3,000-square-meter sewage treatment facility stands in one end of a 7.4-hectare Gawad Kalinga community, which is a relocation site of some 700 families who were displaced by the construction of the city's coastal road project.

For the families who had already benefited from free housing under the GK project, the wastewater treatment facility was a double blessing.

"We are giving this to the community as a gift from the government. It is our way of extending assistance to these people who agreed to this project without any resistance whatsoever," Bayawan Mayor German Sarana Jr. said in a press conference after the inauguration ceremony on Sept. 4.

ANDREAS Kanzler (left), country director of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), explains the concept of the artificial wetlands to German Embassy representative Khesrau Arsalai, Bayawan City Mayor German Sarana Jr., and Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz. ALEX PAL/INQUIRER VISAYAS

The constructed wetland was built by digging a shallow excavation in the 3,000 sq.m. area, which was lined with plastic and concrete, to prevent water from drying up. Because this system was built lower than the level of the faucets or toilets, the effluents from the GK housing project are collected in the wastewater facility by gravity.

The project, costing P10 million or an equivalent cost of P2,600 per person, was funded out of the local government coffers. "We are continually finding ways of bringing the cost down for every new project by finding out what items can be sourced locally. Other systems can cost as much as P9,000 per person," said engineer Gerardo Parco, the project consultant.

For the Bayawan wastewater treatment facility, the wetlands were planted with the local variety of reeds, called tambo, a raw material for the making of brooms.

Compared to conventional treatment systems, constructed wetlands have lower energy and chemical requirements. The reeds obtain their nutrients from the wastewater so fertilizer application is generally not needed. "Things happen in the root system, where the filtration process happens many times faster," Parco said.

Under the deal of the local government unit with the GK beneficiaries, the wastewater facility will be maintained by the beneficiaries, who will sell the recycled wastewater back to the city for firefighting or irrigation.

GTZ country director Andreas Kanzler said his agency is working in the Philippines in the areas of water, sanitation and solid waste, among many other issues, because the problems of water pollution are directly felt by a huge sector of the population.

"Thirty percent of serious health problems in the Philippines can be traced to contaminated water. Thirty Filipinos die each day due to water pollution," said Kanzler, who is also concurrent chief of the Water and Sanitation Program of GTZ.

Kanzler said the technology of constructed wetlands proved to be very successful and reliable in several countries in Asia. He said this technology could address the very serious situation of contamination of the water bodies by untreated wastewater in many regions in the Philippines and expressed hope that the pilot plant will be copied many times all over the country.

The houses in the GK site also use GTZ-designed dry toilets, called Ecosan toilets. These toilets do not use water to flush human waste and separates urine from the feces in order to use these as organic fertilizer.

While Bayawan City might have started complying with the Clean Water Act by putting up its own artificial wetland wastewater treatment facility, Mayor Sarana said this was merely a small dent in the program for the environment. "This represents only 3 percent of the sewage that we should have treated," he said, as he revealed that four more artificial wetlands would be constructed in the city.

GenSan holds tuna fest

SOUTH COTABATO—"THE TUna Festival is a hidden treasure of the country's festival experience. The Department of Tourism will showcase this festival in our international promotions to bring it out from obscurity and turn it into a treasure for everyone to enjoy," said Toursim Secretary Ace Durano.

Secretary Durano was surprised with the many pleasures and treasures he discovered at General Santos City's 8th Tuna Festival held from Aug. 27 to Sept. 7.

The festival coincided with the 38th anniversary of this fast-growing port city—fondly nicknamed GenSan by the natives—in South Cotabato in Mindanao.

While the Tuna congress was all serious business, the whole city of GenSan was awashed with events celebrating GenSan as the leading Philippine producer and exporter of high quality tuna. It has also made the city the leading employer in Mindanao.

Hotels were fully booked. Events were spearheaded in different malls. Small and medium businessmen from Manila and Davao set up their business stalls in the malls.

"Amazing, I can't believe that entrepreneurs from Davao and Manila invest here," Mayor Pedro Acharon said.

Taxis, tricycles, vendors, small bars and restaurants were the beneficiaries.

From nurse...

From page B4

She originally wanted a business that would fall into the schedule of her family. As it is, however, even her off hours and weekends have been conscripted by the business. "I go home late, take emergency calls, rush out unexpectedly sometimes."

Fortunately, she has a family that understands and supports her. Husband Manuel took a night shift at the Honolulu Post Office so he could cover for his busy-busy wife at home. "She is here, there, and everywhere," he says, shaking his head.

Manuel, who comes from Cavite City, may start his own business too—providing wheelchair accessible vans for the elderly and disabled. Agnes also plans to up a pharmacy with other nurses. What she has in mind is no ordinary botika but rather one that will deliver medicine plus care-giving education to the homes. "This will decrease medication errors," she enthuses.

Giving back

Seven years into a successful but demanding business, Agnes is mindful of giving back to the larger community and society.

She joined the Filipino Nurses Organization of Hawaii (FNOH) in 1999 so she could help develop a program to help Pinay nurses pass the state board exams. Before she knew it, she was elected secretary of the group.

She is incumbent president of the 500-strong body. FNOH is, of course, agog over the Hawaii-Filipino Centennial celebrations and has launched the National Health Conference and the Community Healthfair.

Agnes has helped three nurses set up their own case management business. Far from being threatened by prospective competition, she sees the pie as big enough for all.

To *kababayans* eager to work and live in the "land of plenty," Agnes has this to say:

"Nursing in the United States offers a lot of opportunities, not just at the bedside. You just have to go and find your niche. Nurses are no longer just the assistants but rather collaborators of doctors."

She could have added that nurses can go beyond nursing and be in a health care business for themselves.

Some of world's best restaurants listed

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

BIZ TRAVEL

ANY ATTEMPT BY WWW.FOODtourist.com to nominate the world's best restaurants inevitably involves a compromise between different food styles, different methods of service and different expectations.

After searching many parts of the globe for great restaurants, they have nominated not necessarily their favorites (they, however, claim that many of them are).

Several of their restaurant picks are ones that will never meet the requirements of greatness. They simply serve good, honest food in convivial surroundings.

The restaurants nominated are those that serve the finest food in the best of surroundings with the best service. The French restaurants on the list provide exemplary and even innovative food with stunning service.

1. Restaurant Plaza Athénée (Alain Ducasse)
Hôtel Plaza Athénée,
25 av Montaigne, Paris,
75008, France
+33 1 53 67 65 00
all major credit cards accepted

2. Le Louis XV
Hotel de Paris,
Place du Casino,
Monte Carlo, 98000, Monaco
+377 92 16 30 01
all major credit cards accepted

3. The French Laundry
6640 Washington Street,
Yountville, California,
94599, USA
+1 707 944 2380
American Express,
MasterCard, Visa

4. Chez Panisse
1517 Shattuck Avenue,
Berkeley, California, USA
+1 510 548 5525
all major credit cards accepted

5. Tetsuya's
529 Kent Street, Sydney,
New South Wales, Australia
+61 2 9267 2900
all major credit cards accepted

6. Arpege
84 Rue de Varenne,
Paris, 75007, France
+ 33 1 45 51 47 33
all major cards accepted

7.El Bulli
en Cala Montjoi,
Roses, Girona, 17480, Spain
+34 972 150 457
all major credit cards accepted

8. Flower Drum
17 Market Lane, Melbourne,
Victoria, 3000, Australia
+61 3 9662 3655
all major credit cards accepted

9. Spring Moon
Peninsula Hotel,
Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui,
Kowloon, Hong Kong
852 2920 2888
all major cards

10. Taillevent
15, rue Lamennais,
Paris, 75008, France
01 40 95 15 01
all major credit cards accepted

11. Le Bernardin
155 West 51st Street,
New York, New York,
10019, USA
+1 212 489 1515
all major cards accepted

Another winner is Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport—scheduled to open on Sept. 28, 2006. The airport is set to become one of the world's most important aviation hubs, and with Bangkok a key hub for flights to Europe, the Middle East, the Indochina region and the rest of Asia, the airport opening will have particular significance for travellers from Australia and New Zealand.

Initially, it is expected to handle up to 45 million passengers annually, based on two parallel runways with a total capacity of 76 flights per hour. Upon full completion, it will have four runways and passenger terminals capable of handling 100 million movements a year.

The first major component of the airport precinct—the 612-room Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel opened its doors on Sept. 1, 2006.

Opening hotel rates begin at Baht2380++ per night, valid till the airport officially opens on Sept. 28, when the rates will start from Baht3380++ per night. Packages including spa treatments and added extras will also be available.

Endless possibilities at the Woodland Trails of Ayala Greenfield Estates

The majestic Mt. Makiling served as a gorgeous backdrop of Ayala Greenfield Estates' latest open -house event to launch Woodland Trails. The newest phase of this exclusive haven south of Manila, Woodland Trails continues Ayala Greenfield Estates' vision of a luxurious living environment set amidst the grandness of nature.

Homeowners as well as future residents gathered at the Village Clubhouse for the event, which began with a Thanksgiving Mass. A special lunch buffet was spread out for the guests, wWith hile several stations were set up for those inclined to know more about various crafts. K, kids and adults alike gathered at the rock painting area, where artist JP dela Rosa taught the enthusiastic students how to hunt for the best rocks for their works of art. At the paper twining section, the guests marveled at how pieces of paper can be used to create eclectic yet functional ornaments. Expert candle makers also showed the older set how easy it was to make these illuminating decorations, perfect for the home or as gifts to loved ones.

The guests were also entertained by Kontra-Gapi, the resident ethnic music and dance ensemble of the University of the Philippines' College of Arts and Letters. The group performed traditional music and tribal dances that show the Philippines' cultural diversity. They also enjoined kids to try out the unique musical instruments like the kulintang and gangsa.

Even as the guests took in the breathtaking views at the Clubhouse, Ayala Land Premier property specialists were on hand to show prospective clients around the village.

The Woodland Trails is undoubtedly an exciting addition to Ayala Greenfield Estates. Located right beside the 15-hectare Nature Park, the phase provides residents with majestic vistas of the lush woodlands. "The rolling terrain and high elevation also affords a grand view of the Tagaytay Ridge, Laguna de Bay, and even the cityscape of Metro Manila,," said Ayala Greenfield Estates project development manager Pol Tanco.

Given its choice location beside the Nature Park, the new phase offers endless possibilities for activities that lovers of the great outdoors will surely enjoy. "We called it Woodland Trails because, instead a regular sidewalk, the phase will feature expansive trails that are perfect for activities like hiking and biking," shared Tanco. Residents could hike or bike through the Nature Park, a beautiful landscape filled with majestic trees, lush groves and gardens. Kids and adults alike would also find the Nature Park a perfect place to indulge in picnic, kite-flying and other relaxing activities.

The Woodland Trails' tree-lined streets further accentuate that feeling of being enveloped by nature. "We also plan to ring the perimeter of this phase with more forest parks, so we're pretty sure that nature lovers will have a wonderful time exploring this part of the village," Tanco added.

While the Woodland Trails provides exciting nature activities, it's also conveniently located very near Ayala Greenfield Estates world class amenities - the Village Clubhouse, golf course and the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club.

"The Clubhouse is actually a part of the Nature Park, so it's very accessible to residents at Woodland Trails," related Tanco. A place to rest and relax, meet with friends, or just enjoy the view, the Village Clubhouse offers exciting amenities like an infinity pool and jacuzzi, massage and steam rooms, and gym, as well as a game room, coffee shop, and social hall. Kids will also delight in the kiddie pool, playground and skating rink.

Likewise, Ayala Greenfield Estates' championship golf course is just a few minutes away from Woodland Trails. Designed by world-renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones, the 18-hole, par 72, all-weather course offers golf enthusiasts a pleasurable playing experience amidst the breathtaking views. After a game, they can relax and dine at the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club, which will, in the future, feature amenities like a swimming pool, billiard halls and badminton courts, and a spa and wellness center.

"Because of its proximity to the golf course, we made sure that the trails at the new phase are wide enough to accommodate golf carts," said Tanco.

All in all, the new phase serves to enhance the vision of Ayala Land Premier for the development. "Ayala Greenfield Estates is the place where you can find nature at its grandest," shared Tanco. And surely, at Ayala Greenfield Estates' Woodland Trails, the celebration of nature continues.

Ayala Greenfield Estates is one of the choicest, exclusive residences managed and marketed by Ayala Land Premier, the high-end business unit of Ayala Land, whose excellent brand of service and care has led to the development of innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, first-class abodes over the last few decades. It is developed by Ayala Greenfield Development Corp.

For inquiries about Ayala Greenfield Estates, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalagreenfieldestates.com or email ask@ayalalandpremier.com.

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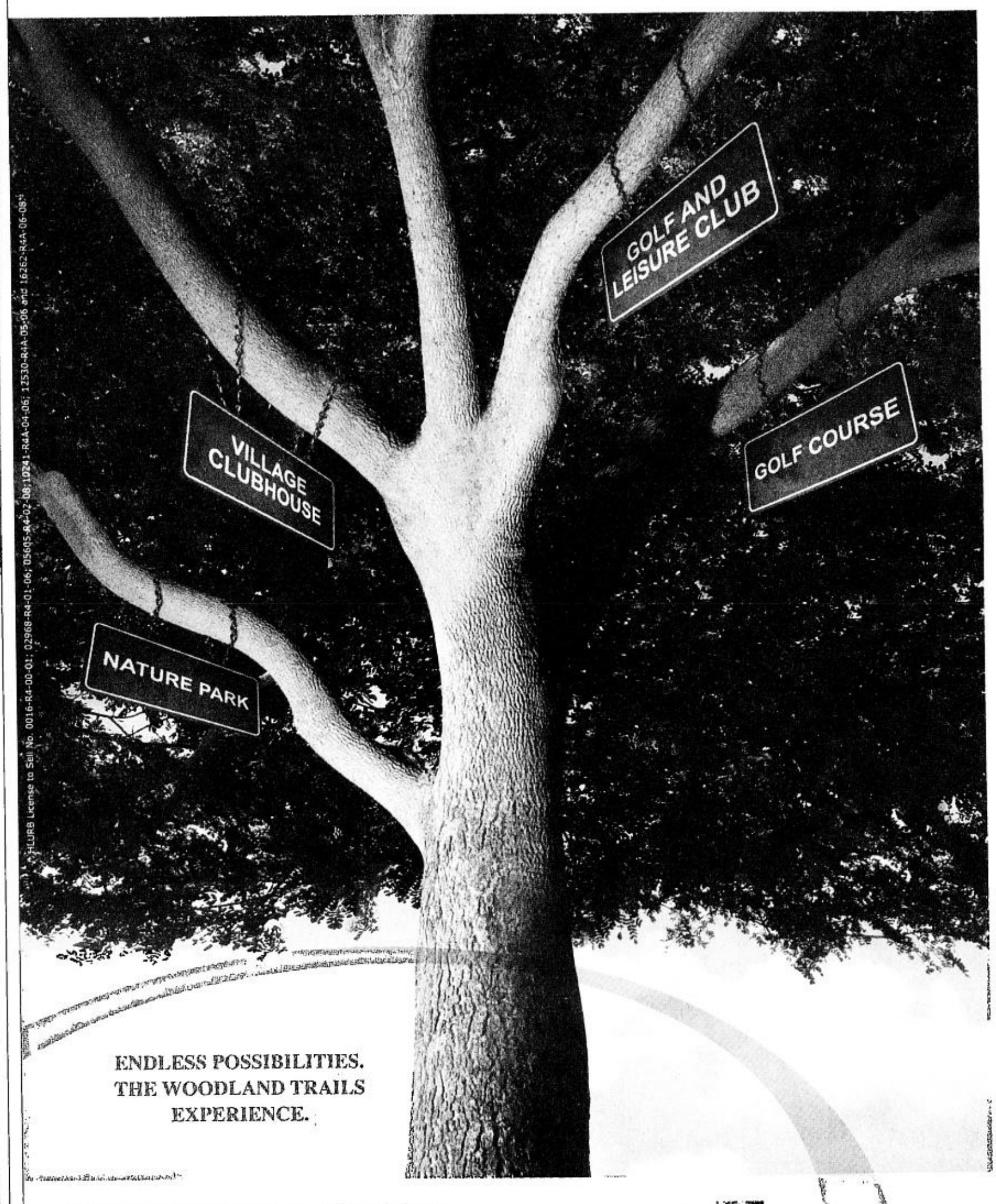

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Sunday BIZ

From nurse to entrepreneur

Pinay achiever raises benchmark for nurses in Hawaii

AGNES (extreme right) with some of her staff at CM Professionals, Inc.

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor

FIL-HAWAIIAN family: (clockwise) Agnes, Manuel and daughters Angelica, Alyssa, and Aimee

THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SHOW that the local version of "Diaspora" began in earnest from Ilocos to Hawaii almost a hundred years ago.

On December 20, 1906, 15 Filipinos from Ilocos Sur , arrived at the Honolulu Harbor on board a small boat named SS Doric. Recruited to work in sugarcane fields, the young men, most of them unmarried and in their 20's, brought little with them apart from their dreams and their willingness to work hard. More deployments followed.

By the 1930s, the Filipino *sakadas* had replaced the Japanese as the dominant work force in sugarcane and pineapple farms.

Today, there are about 300,000 Filipinos living in Hawaii, accounting for 24 percent of the population. They are no longer confined to the plantations but have broken into the professions and the higher echelons of government service.

Fil-Hawaiian achievers

There is no lack of Filipino achievers in this island-state.

It is well known that Benjamin Cayetano, son of a *sakada* from Urdaneta, Pangasinan, was elected state governor of Hawaii for two terms. Filipinos serve as senators, state representatives, mayors and councilors.

Today's Fil-Hawaiians are also doctors, nurses, teachers and civil service employees.

And some, like Agnes Doldolea-Reyes, have made their mark in business.

Agnes owns and manages Case Management Professionals, Inc in Ewa Beach, which employs 12 people—seven nurses, two social workers, and three administrative staff.

In 2001, she was named Filipino Nurse of the Year by the Filipino Nurses Organization of Hawaii (FNOH). A year later, she was cited Business Woman of the Year by Filipino Women's Business Association (FWBA). Last year, she received the Legislative Award in Nursing from the State of Hawaii House of Representatives.

Case management

Case management companies are contracted by the State government to provide assessment, planning, delivery and monitoring services to assure that the disadvantaged in the community—the indigent, the elderly, the handicapped—are being provided with appropriate, good-quality and cost-effective medical care.

Case management is not into hands-on care but rather into directing the care. Though they call the shots, doctors have to justify their treatment plan. They need to justify, for example, why a given medicine is prescribed, why surgery is indicated, or why hospital confinement is required. The agencies are mandated to assume the care direction.

Agnes' company, put up in 1999, is a pioneer case management agency for home and community-based services in the state. Today, there are 22 such agencies in the place, half of which are Filipino-owned.

How she went beyond nursing into entrepreneurship makes for an inspiring story. And yet, the petite, unassuming lady asserts that she never imagined going into business before. "All I wanted was to be able to practice a profession while raising a family."

Family is husband Manuel G. Reyes, a US Post employee and children Aimee, 17; Alyssa, 14, and Angelica, 12.

Ilocos and Manila roots

Three generations of the Doldolea family have settled in Manila, although Agnes' grandparents were originally from Bangui, Ilocos Norte.

A graduate of Paco Catholic School, Agnes took up Nursing at the University of Santo Tomas. She transferred to Trinity General Hospital after a few years to fast-track her studies when it became clear that the family was US-bound.

Her first job in Hawaii was a nursing aide in a nursing home. When she passed the board exams, she worked in a rehabilitation hospital and from there in an acute medical surgical hospital and a progressive care unit.

Marriage in 1989 and babies soon after made her reassess her career plans.

Career shift

Three years she ran a care home. "It means taking care of five elderly patients in one's own home," Agnes said.

While it yielded good income and allowed her to say home, it was a demanding 24/7 job. As her family was hard put adjusting to the new lifestyle, Agnes went back to the hospital setting and took a 9 to 5 job as quality-management coordinator.

Then she heard about the state's residential alternative program which required the services of case management agencies to direct the care of the sick and indigent elderly in an "alternative setting." Agnes put up her agency, now counted as one of the pioneers that helped build the infrastructure of the program.

"The State pays $6,000 a month for each patient in a nursing home. If the patient's care is moved into the community, that is, into foster homes, this would mean huge savings for the government.

"However, since the patients are elderly, require complex care, and stay in an alternative setting, they need a case manager to direct the care plan," Agnes explains.

Initially, what her then newly-organized group did was to recruit caregivers who were interested to take in patients into their homes. "Then we screened and trained them. We had to develop enough qualified homes to meet the needs of the community. When we receive a referral from a hospital, we would match the client with the home."

Challenges

The business is fraught with risks. Case managers stand between patients on one hand and caregivers on the other. Everyday, Agnes and her team receive a big volume of calls from caregivers, families and medical facilities. They handle complaints, give care directions, resolve conflicts and intervene in crises by phone since visits to the homes can only be done monthly.

If a caregiver is sued by a patient for negligence or abuse, the agency has to take the case to a lawyer. The agency can ultimately be liable, she says.

FROM NURSE/ B2

Review for real brokers' exam

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry has set the real estate broker's licensure examination in November 26 and the Urban Institute of Real Estate announced the schedule of its Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review as follows:

Monday Evening Section will start on Sept. 25, then Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Nov. 6 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Makati; Tuesday Afternoon Section will be on Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and Nov. 7 from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. (same place).

The Saturday Afternoon Section will be at the same time and venue to start on Oct. 7.

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Charity and good clothes sense flare at eTelecare

ALLAN Geoffrey Libertino, Angelito Arceo Jr., Jascha Subahri, Paul Aldino Barrientos, AJ Antonio

CLOCKWISE: AJ Antonio, (seated), Faye Sebastian, Franki Prudente, Paul Aldino Barrientos, Maris Javellana.

GIVEN THE CHANCE TO MAKE A difference, eTelecare professionals choose to have great fashion time while being good corporate citizens with Mission eSmiles.

Mission eSmiles was recently held by eTelecare Global Solutions, one of the leading Asia-based call center, to help raise funds for children with harelip.

By purchasing an eSmiles support pin for P100, an eTelecare professional bought himself or herself a week's time to dress down and be office fashionistas. This, as the money was channeled to fund surgical operations to bring smiles to children with cleft lip and palate defects.

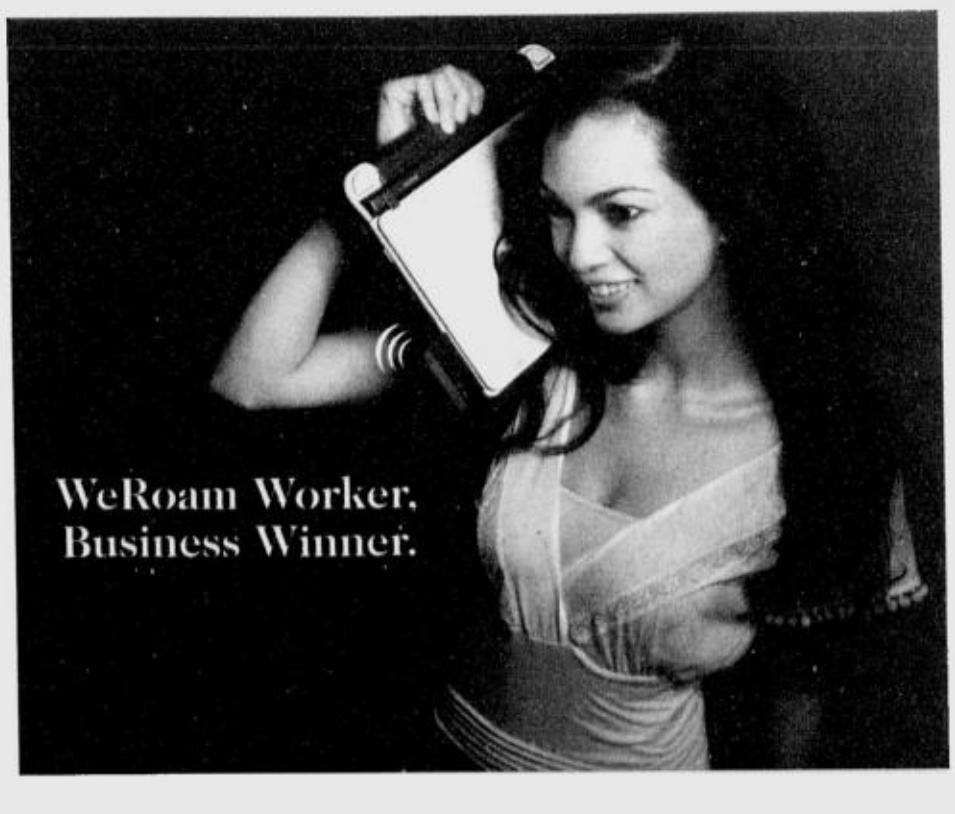
Camille Chikiamco-Casal, eTelecare's Employee Programs Specialist, says the project started when eTelecare's Cebu office linked up with the local Jaycees for assistance on its project for children with the facial defect.

Employees had a swell time with their own fashion statements while gaining fulfillment out of the chance to help others. Over P200,000 had been generated through the "dress down" pins. With the amount, at least 24 kids can undergo the much needed surgery.

Mission eSmiles was one of numerous projects spawned by eTelecare in pursuit of good corporate citizenry. It exemplified the eTelecare tradition of living out its core values of integrity, pride, professionalism and fun.

eTelecare is the youngest and the only company in business process outsourcing ever awarded Outstanding Employer of the Year by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. Also holding the record as the most awarded call center, eTelecare is charting well-deserved growth. It has a total of 12 call centers—with five in the Philippines and seven in the United States. The latest, which is set in Alabang, Muntinlupa, opens this month (August).

It has over 7,000 employees and is currently searching for 3,500 more professionals to serve increasingly complex requirements of clients, including Fortune 500 companies which require excellent call center services.



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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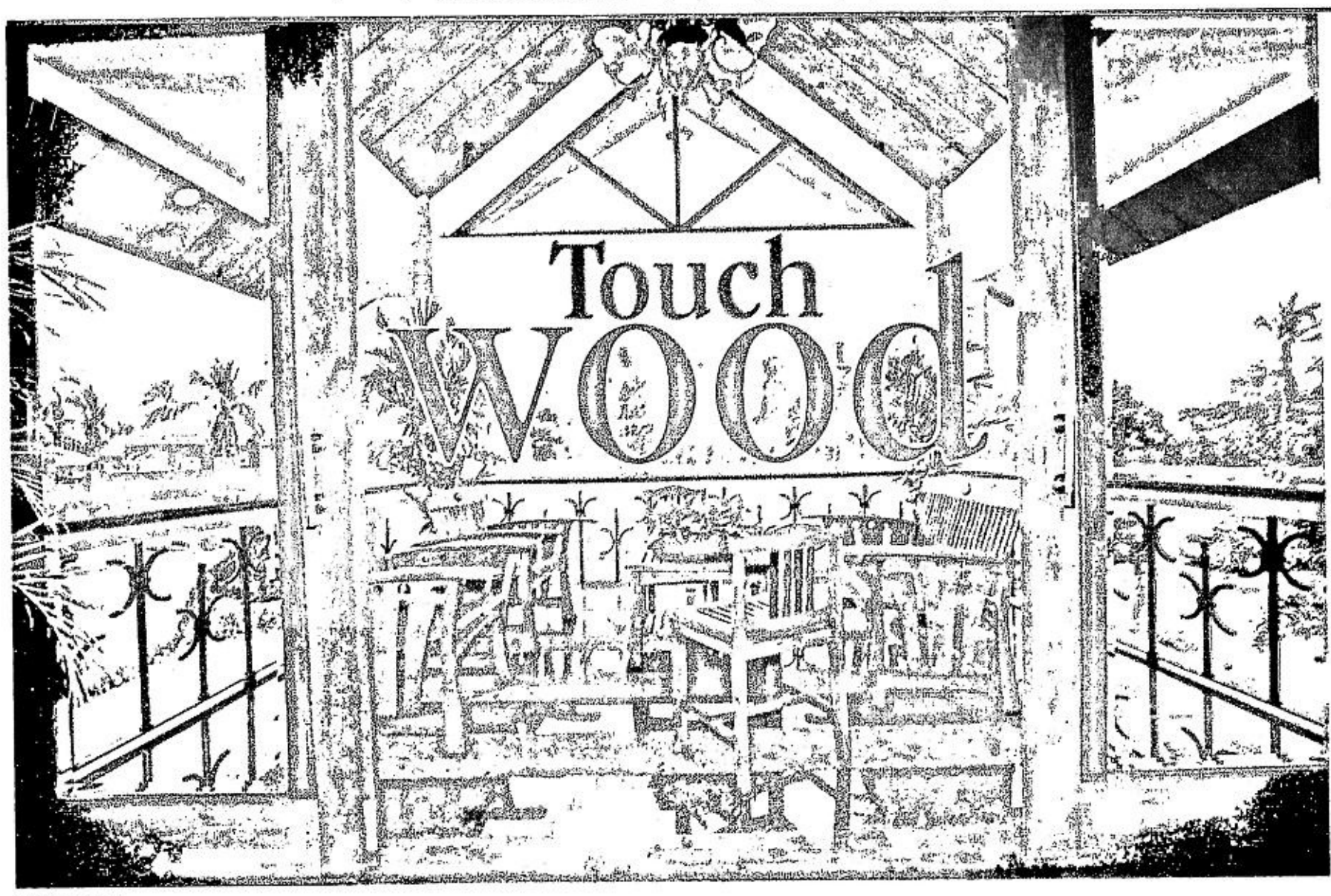
IN THIS ISSUE

Sea Princess
on a roll for charity and fitness/C4



Touch Wood

This vacation home in Lipa, Batangas, is a showcase of 'maulawin, an indigenous species of hardwood excavated from sunken ships and old ports on the coasts of Padre Burgos in Quezon Province

OPEN SPACE. The De Gala weekend home opens up to views of mountains, palm trees and grass fields, as well as a golf course.

Text by AA Patawaran
Photos by Menchit Ongpin

WHILE MOST PEOPLE ARE trying to flee, if momentarily, from congested Manila, banker Daniel Reyes de Gala has chosen a spot closer to the big city coming from Candelaria, Quezon, where he runs about eight thrift banks. Moreover, while most people move out of the metropolis in search of space, he chose to build a rather modest Swiss chalet-inspired two-story, five-bedroom house, replete with a basement and an attic.

"I grew up in a huge ancestral house in Quezon," De Gala explains. "So I made it a point to build a second home that is homier and more manageable."

On vacation

His chosen spot is a 700-sq-m property at the 200-ha Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club and Residential Estates in neighboring Lipa, Batangas, only 75 km from Manila, as opposed to the 112-km distance between Manila and Quezon.

"I wanted a vacation house, where there are many things to do," says De Gala. "But when I'm here, all I want to do is to sleep. I hardly even play golf."

Perched 1,200 feet above sea level, this first-class residential subdivision within a world-class golf resort in Lipa is a getaway, with gentle winds blowing all-year round and views of mountains and greenery to lull you to sleep or at least to inspire in you a sense of languor.

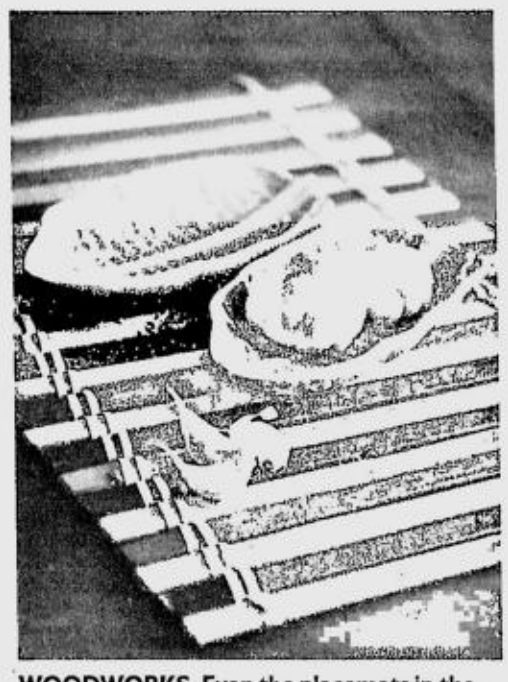
Resisting the idylls of Lipa during the construction of his dream house, however, proved to be quite a challenge for De Gala. "It took 13 months to build this house," he recalls. "All the time, I was irritable and very impatient. I just thought it was taking too long, especially the finishing stage. I couldn't wait to enjoy it."

At last, the waiting is over. Apart from sleeping, De Gala finds entertaining guests a good way to make the most of this weekend house. "I enjoy having friends over and serving them the best of Batangas and Quezon, especially crispy *pata*, which is everybody's favorite," he muses.

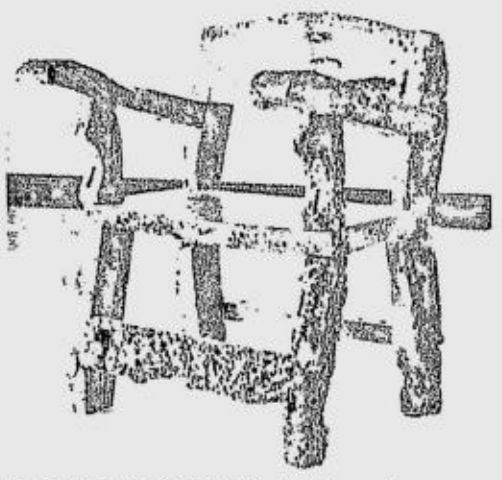
No wonder his weekend home is an "open house," with its 450-sq-m floor area extending into a balcony and outdoor sitting areas. It is open, indeed, to the outside world through large windows, sliding doors and glass walls. In fact, the owner's only disagreement with his architect, Liloy Gatdula, had to do with

TOUCH/ C2

WORKS OF ART. The *maulawin* desk, a conversation piece, along with the chairs around it, is designed by its owner, masterfully executed by Candelaria carpenters, and integrated with *ipil-ipil* for accent.



WOODWORKS. Even the placemats in the De Gala dining room are of *maulawin*.



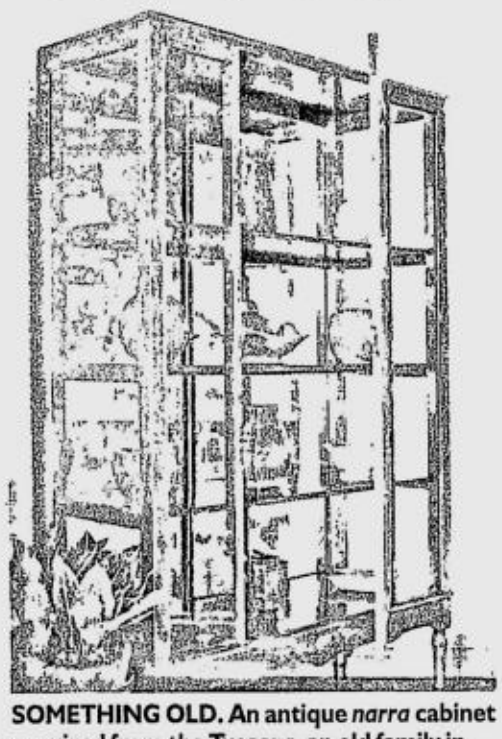
LAP OF LANGUOR. Plucked from the depths of Padre Burgos, this new incarnation of *maulawin* is, more than a chair, a sculpture.

Touch WOOD

From page C1

the addition of a second-floor balcony that De Gala insisted on even after the plans were made final. "I love nature, so I lobbied for that balcony and to have a balcony where it was possible to have it," he beams.

"I want nature to be a big part of my home, which is why my original choice for this weekend home was Tagaytay, where my grandfather grew up. I also believe that a happy home is where plenty of natural light comes in."



SOMETHING OLD. An antique *narra* cabinet acquired from the Tuasons, an old family in QC

In essence, this banker and father of four, who also has a construction business, is a farmer. "After college, my first job was to oversee the family property in Mindoro," he says. "I took care of the plants. I raised the animals."

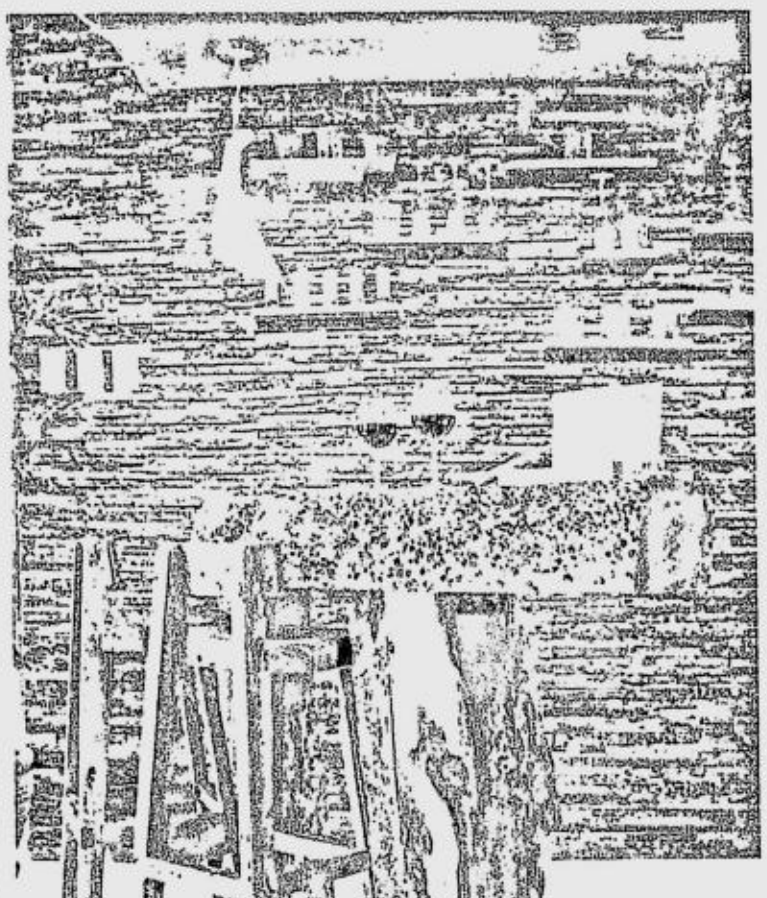
Old ports and sunken ships

De Gala's fondness for nature is also evident in the organic touches of wood all over his Lipa refuge. In fact, his weekend home is a showcase of *maulawin*, an indigenous species of hardwood that is in the same league as *narra*, *kalumpit*, *kamagong*, *geminina* and *akle*. Used amply in every corner, *maulawin* serves as a conversation piece at the De Gala household, especially since all of it was retrieved from sunken ships and old ports in the coastal town of Padre Burgos in Quezon.

"At first, I was initially looking for kiln-dried *narra*," says De Gala. "But it was too expensive. My search for a cheaper alternative led me to *maulawin*. The first time I saw it, I didn't think much of it. It was covered in mud and barnacles. You would need plenty of imagination to see its possibilities."

Maulawin, indeed, has proven to be the better choice, thanks to its organic-looking surface, its steadiness, hardiness, flexibility and, especially its unique texture, a testament to its many years underwater. De Gala is quick to credit the masterful craftsmanship of the carpenters of Candelaria for the *maulawin*-made furniture that provides every room at his country home with form and function, design and purpose.

Maulawin is what welcomes both the resident and the guests, with front doors made of this heavy wood species whose texture marked by perforations, where barnacles



WARM WOOD. More than a place for entertaining guests, the bar is a showpiece of the indigenous *maulawin*'s versatility.

SOFT LIGHT. Lamps of Japanese bamboo and rattan flank the master's bed.

BUFF PUFF. A lamp of loofah doubles as décor, as do the other lighting fixtures in the house, including the unique hanging lamps over the dining table and the bedrooms.

used to be, almost always compels visitors to stroke it. *Maulawin*, which makes up the railings and every step of the staircase, is also what leads them upstairs. It is the ceiling overhead. It is the walls that keep the house together. It is the chairs or the benches which bring the family and their friends together. It is the bar from which they offer and are offered refreshments. Even its shavings have done wonders to the flooring.

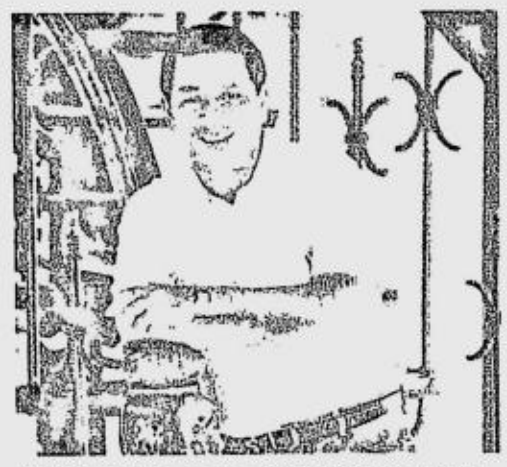
House of simple dreams

Moreover, thanks to the versatility of *maulawin*, De Gala has let his creativity loose, designing unique chairs in collaboration with his favorite carpenters in Candelaria, as well as his long-time interior designer Cinderella Tan. With the exception of sofas made of water lily, a wooden bed imported from the US, and a smattering of antiques acquired from here and there, everything, indeed, at his home is a showpiece of *maulawin*.

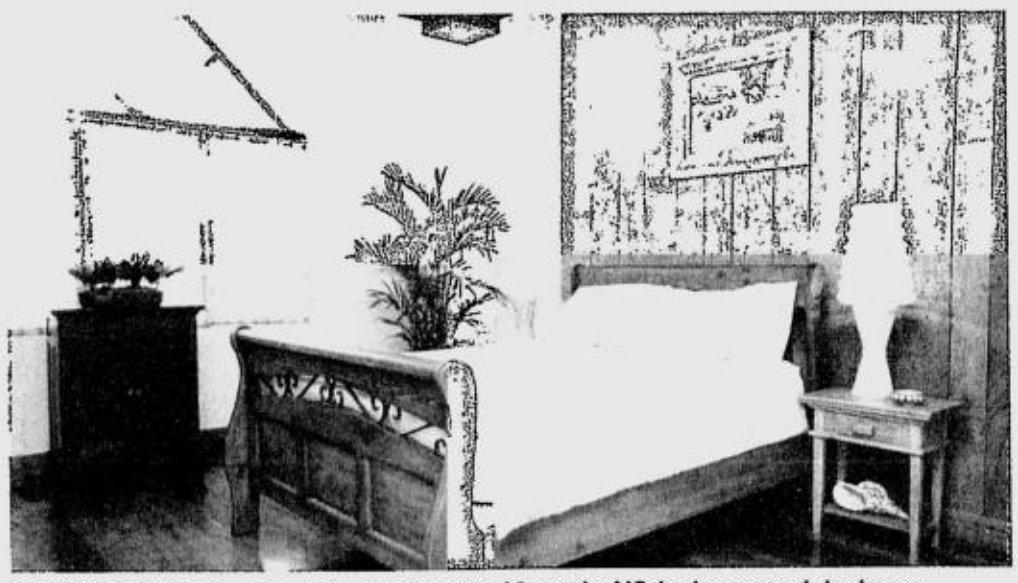
When asked how much more he wants out of his dream home, De Gala shrugs his shoulders, "I am a man of simple tastes. Even as a businessman, I only go for modest goals, only what I need. This house is exactly how I envisioned it, but I only wish I had enough space for a garden or a big lawn."

Immediately, De Gala makes a mental note to find out if the next lot is available. If his luck continues, touch wood, as they say, a garden will soon bloom to make yet another dream come true.

E-mail the author at aapatawaran@yahoo.com

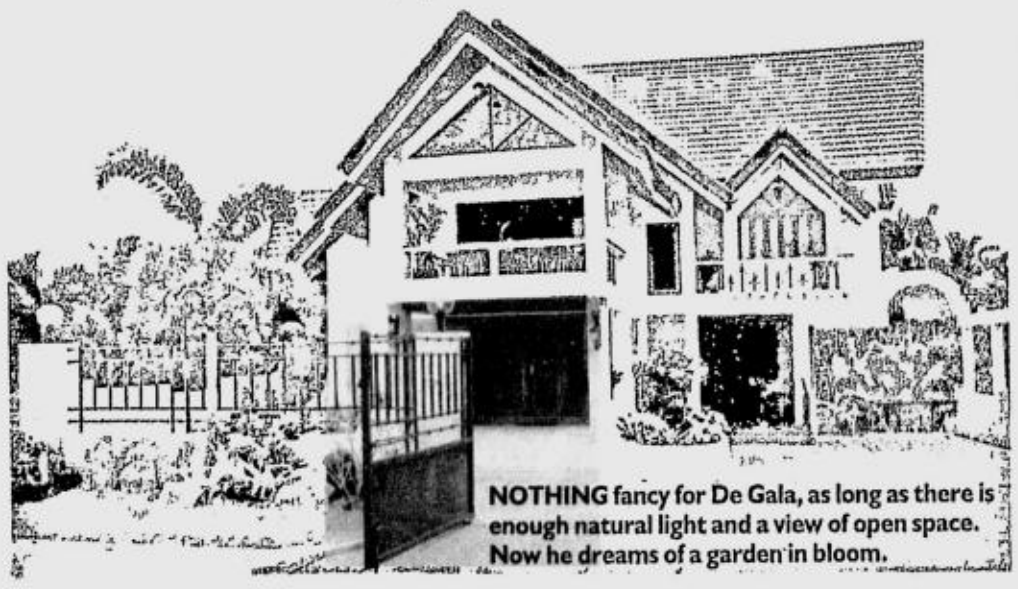


MASTER of the house. Daniel Reyes de Gala, banker, entrepreneur, farmer, gardener and father of four



DEEP SLEEP. A luscious bed of *narra*, imported from the US, in the master's bedroom

FOR FRIENDS and family. The Malarayat house is where De Gala entertains guests, including business colleagues from Quezon. Cozy and comfy, with a variety of sofas, benches and chairs on which to lounge around, the living room extends to the outdoors through glass walls, sliding doors and picture windows.



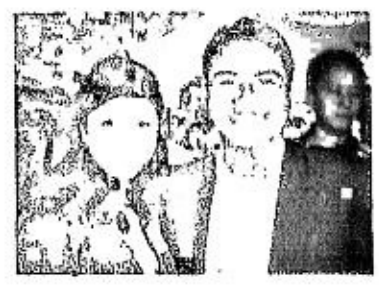
NOTHING fancy for De Gala, as long as there is enough natural light and a view of open space. Now he dreams of a garden in bloom.

SOCIALLY responsible friends Irene Francisco and Hapee CEO Cecilio Pedro

JESSICA Rodriguez and David Bunevacz, Beverly Hills 6750 owners

DR. Angel Cumagun of Beverly Hills 6750 and GM Suzette Lopez

DOY Vea, Smart Communications founder



TECHNO NeGOsyo friends Carissa Cruz-Evangelista and Dondi Mapa

BRILLIANT minds Myla Villanueva and Ben Colayco

GRACIOUS host Marissa Concepcion and PhilWeb CEO Dennis Valdes

Healthy and wealthy inside and out

From page C4

For the text savvy, send LM PROTECT <name> <address> and text to 231 for Smart and 2366 for Globe and Sun. And to feel cool and be one with them, wear the "One Water" baller bands that signify unity in the advocacy for clean water. Head to any Goldilocks and Starbucks and get these ballers for only P25.

With all the environmental disasters that have affected us, like in ones in Ormoc and Quezon, we should really raise our voice in unison for La Mesa. The special concert will be aired tonight on ABS-CBN's Sunday's Best at 10:30 p.m.

Recycling at the mall

On the recycling side, scrap paper, used ink cartridges, broken appliances, aluminum cans, used lead acid batteries and even junk cell phones can be traded in for cash and still help in lessening the garbage in the country. The Waste Trading Markets in Goldcrest Carpark, Ayala Center (every first Friday of the month) and Alabang Town Center (every third Friday of the month) make recycling convenient and accessible, especially for those who frequent commercial shopping areas.

The market opens at 8 a.m., so pass the word around and make recycling a habit. Check the website of the Philippine Business for the Environment, www.pbe.org.ph, for details. Every little step helps.

Keeping the environment clean and green should be on everyone's conscience. But keeping oneself "clean" inside and out is just as important. Hence, my Bikram yoga practices with certified Bikram yogi **Pye Trinidad** (contact no. 0917-8340659) and **Tristan Choa** (0917-8051159) have been fantastic for my detoxing and massive fat reduction as well!

Trailblazing exercises

For an interesting variation of yoga with a bit of Tai Chi and Pilates combined, the award-winning, internationally acclaimed fitness guru **Lawrence Bisconti**-ni is in town for a series of classes hosted by Yoga Manila. Famous for his trailblazing classes that fuse together several physical disciplines, Lawrence will teach his popular Shakti workshop on Sept. 25 in Alabang (405 Bougainvilla St. corner Sanggumay St., Ayala Alabang Village) from 10-11:30 a.m. and, again, in Makati (Century Plaza Penthouse 120 Perea St., Legaspi Village) from 6:30-8 p.m.

LAWYER Felipe Gozon, GMA Network CEO, with Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao

"Shakti" means power, force, feminine energy. In the context of yoga, it refers to the energy released throughout the body when one practices specific poses. Shakti combines classical yoga poses with Tai Chi and Pilates, resulting in choreographed, flowing applications done to nontraditional yogic music.

Biscontini teaches with clarity. He states the purpose of each exercise so participants can reap specific benefits. He believes that if you teach a person something as simple as a breathing technique, it can improve the quality of that individual's life forever. For more information, contact 0920-6486536 or e-mail yogamanilatalabang@gmail.com

After all that cleansing from within, a visit to the newly opened Beverly Hills 6750 Cosmetic Surgery & Skin Institute (11/F 6750 Ayala Avenue, tel. 8938888) can further enhance the total packaging. This is Asia's latest premiere center dedicated to excellence in aesthetic plastic surgery, aesthetic dermatology and cosmetic dentistry.

Owned by handsome couple **David Bunevacz** and **Jessica Rodriguez-Bunevacz**, Beverly Hills offers an outstanding team of doctors and is affiliated with Beverly Hills Surgical Institute (BHSI) of California, USA.

For someone totally afraid of the knife like me, the options for non-invasive treatments are just as effective and painless. The institute has procedures that just melt the fat away. It's all part of being environmentally sound, both in body and surroundings.

Go entrepreneurs!

Last week, I attended the TechnoNegosyo summit, where various techno-entrepreneurs shared their biz wisdom with students and potential entrepreneurs. It was a fantastic event, all part of **Joey Concepcion**'s Go Negosyo campaign to jump-start small- and medium-scale enterprises in our country.

Between reading about Gina and Joey and the rest of the fantastic Pinoys in my column today, I just feel that this is a positive Sunday. How wonderful that is!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

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ANGELICA Panganiban, Sam Milby, Nikki Gil, Piolo Pascual and Bea Alonzo

Healthy and wealthy inside and out

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

CLEAN WATER AND breathable air have become prime commodities these days. Who would have thought drinking water would have to be purchased? In a few years, even oxygen pumps might be for sale.

Are we leaving this world worse off than the one that we were born into? Our legacy to our kids should be for them to remember us as the generation that made a positive difference in our environment.

In our country where more than half the population is just struggling to live, the environment has been neglected and abused. We need to do our share of recycling, conserving and protecting. Still, it is difficult to think of helping nature when life's basic needs are difficult to meet.

As they say, to those who have more, more is also expected. The queen of charity, **Gina Lopez**, is a stellar example of moving mountains and getting real action done. She has organized a signature campaign to save the La Mesa Dam, the primary source of drinking water for about 12 million Metro Manila residents. This watershed needs to be saved from a housing project that is set to be built near the La Mesa Dam, posing a risk of water contamination through garbage, human wastes and insecticides.

With an unbelievable power cast of ABS-CBN's brightest stars, a Bantay Kalikasan-produced concert was held at the Araneta Coliseum as part of "One Water: Tinig para sa Tubig," a 5 million-signature campaign to help protect this watershed. Believing in this vital cause, almost all of the artists shared their time and talent for free, and even the venue was made available at a massive discount.

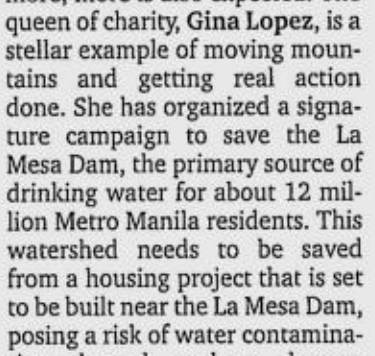
From the hunks, the fresh faces, the veteran power singers, to the "champions" and environmental enthusiasts, the concert had everyone dancing on their feet and totally enjoying while still being part of this important campaign. Surely, the unified voice of millions of Filipinos is influential enough to keep the La Mesa Dam safe.

As managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation, Gina announced that the group was still short by three million signatures and that they needed to complete the goal by the end of the month.

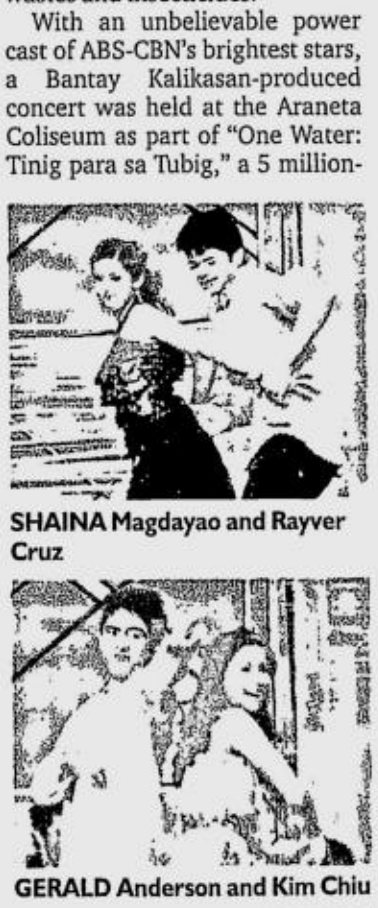
It's quite easy to get involved and join the campaign. On any piece of paper, put as heading Protect La Mesa, Protect the Water Resources and collect as many signatures from family and friends. Submit this list (fax to 4121382) to Bantay Kalikasan, ABS-CBN Foundation, JRS outlets, David's Salon, Shell gas stations, LBC and Bayad Centers nationwide.

HEALTHY/ C3

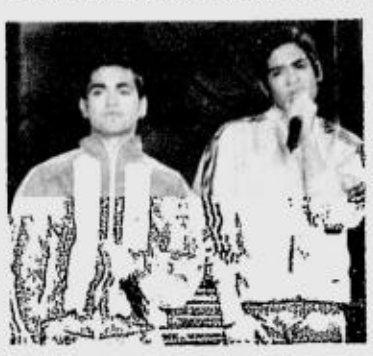
With all the environmental disasters that have affected us, we should really raise our voice in unison for La Mesa watershed



SHAINA Magdayao and Rayver Cruz

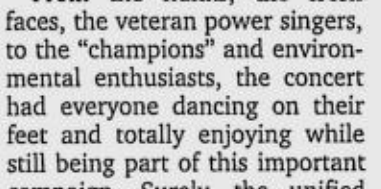


GERALD Anderson and Kim Chiu

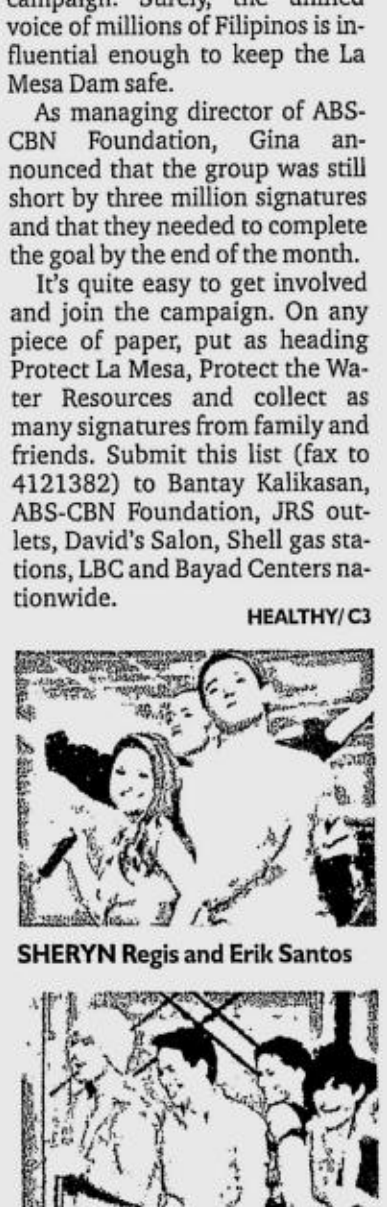


CARLOS and Aaron Agassi

FITNESS guru Lawrence Biscontini



SHERYN Regis and Erik Santos



RAFAEL Rosell, John Lloyd Cruz, Victor Basa, Zanjoe Marudo and Sam Milby

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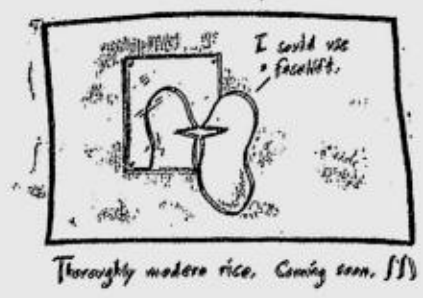
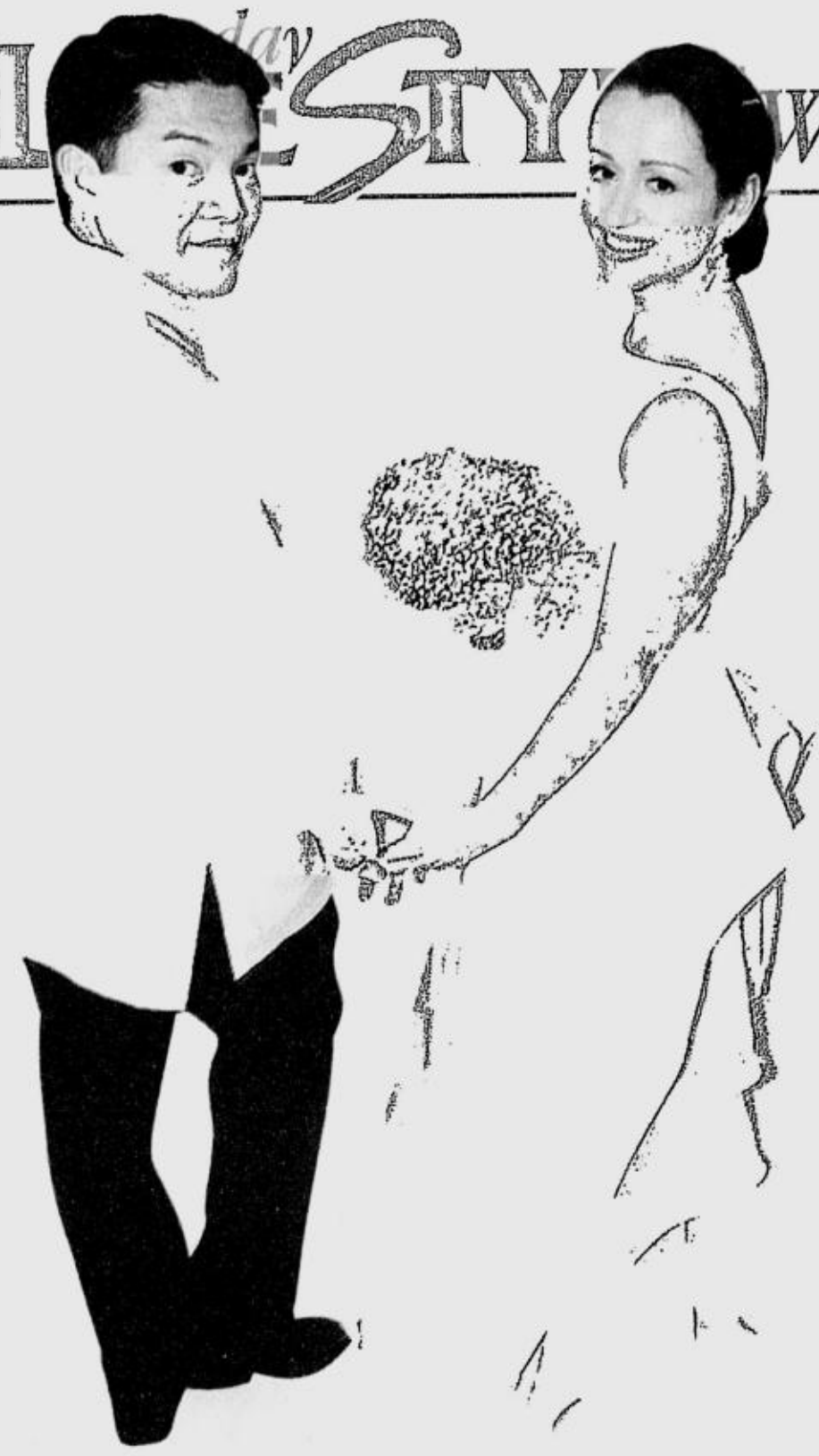




JAMESY and Kate Laya

It all began in Barcelona

Some 20 nationalities were represented during the Laya-Ansbro wedding

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex van Hagen

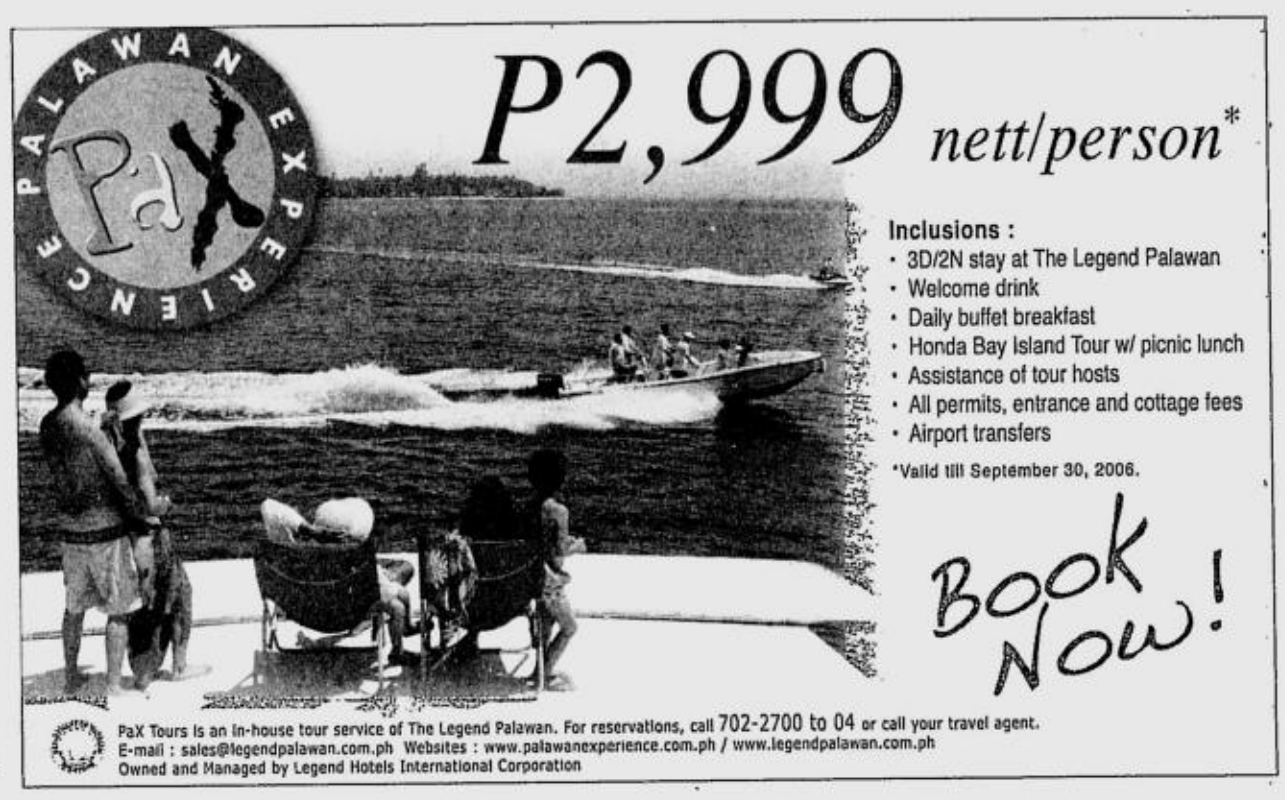
SANTUARIO DE SAN Antonio, the place of worship for residents of posh Forbes Park, Manille's premier gated community, *palanggas*, has become, in recent years, the place of choice for grand weddings.

Its restrained splendor and air-conditioned comfort, no small matter in our tropical isles, attract prominent people from all over our town.

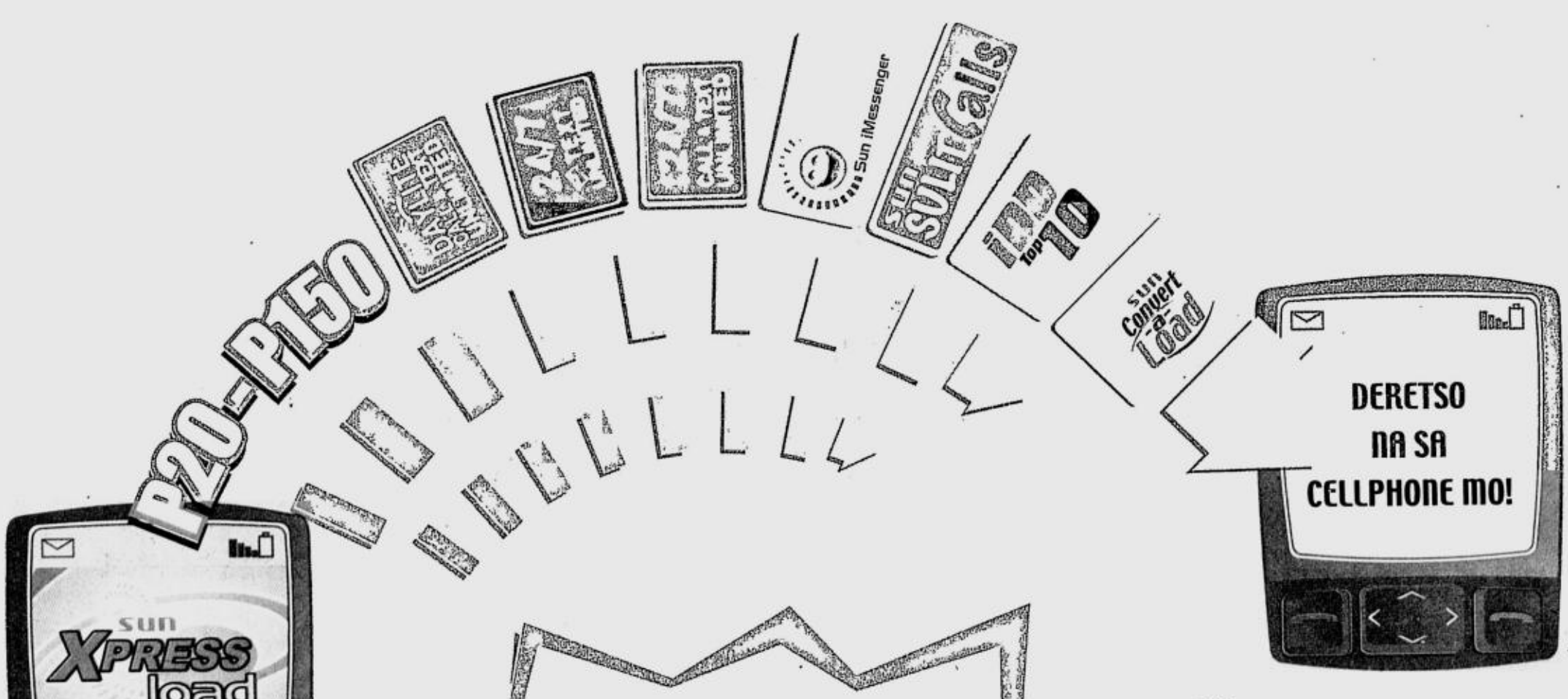
Into this hallowed temple entered the attractive bride, Kate Elizabeth Ansbro, daughter of David and Veronica Ansbro (David is retired managing partner for the United Kingdom and Europe of Eversheds, a large international law firm).

Stunning in a Jojie Lloren creation, the bride glided up the aisle to Charpentier's prelude to "Te Deum." Waiting at the altar was her good-looking groom, Juan

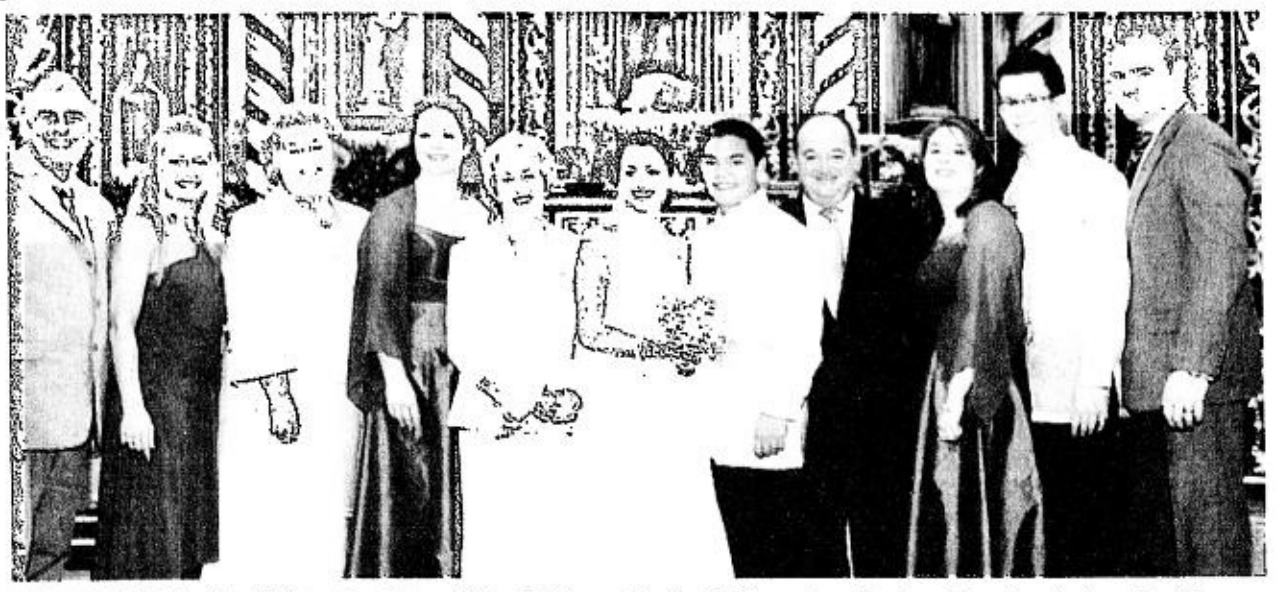
IT ALL/ D2



Lahat Ng Ito Available Na Sa
Sun Xpress Load



THE GROOM'S *famille*: Amy Laya, Carlos Ortega, Mianne Laya Ortega, Isabel and Diego Ortega; Silvina Laya, Jaime Laya, Sandra Laya Zinampan and Mario Zinampan



THE BRIDE'S *famille*: Christopher Glynn, Victoria Glynn, Elizabeth Glynn, Lucy Ansbro, Veronica Ansbro; David Ansbro, Charlotte Ansbro, Michael Ansbro and Daniel Glynn

It all began in Barcelona

From page D1

"Jamesy" Claudio Laya, only son of former Central Bank governor and current chair of Philtrust Bank, our *palangga* Jaime C. Laya, and the late Alice Sandoval.

She was followed down the aisle by hot, hot principal sponsors like taipan Emilio Yap, Manila Bulletin and Manila Hotel owner; Jamesy's godmother Julie Hill, from Rancho Santa Fe in California; his aunt and uncle Luisita Itchon and Victor Sandoval; his sister and brother-in-law Mianne and Carlos Ortega; Kate's uncle and aunt Christopher and Elizabeth Glynn; Cora Mariano Young, the best man's mother; and Leo Fay, old pals of the Ansbro *famille*.

RJ de Gracia, dahlings, the groom's cousin, was cantor, while JP Vicente, Jamesy's childhood pal, classmate and football teammate, was best man. Maid of honor was Kate's sister, Lucy Ansbro, a producer for British television. Ring bearers and flower girls were the cutie-pie children of *famille* members and gang mates of the couple in university.

Palm-lined

Nine-foot palms lined the red-carpet walk to the aisle. Woven at Villa Escudero, under the personal supervision of the great estate's owner, Don Ado Escudero, they were arranged by renowned designer, mega talented Mike Sandoval.

The wedding was presided over by Fr. Nemy Que, the groom's close pal and mentor at Ateneo. During the ceremony, master organist Armando Salarza played music by Handel, Bach and Purcell. The world-class Las Piñas Boys Choir presented a program of English and Filipino music.

The climax was absolutely romantic, *palanggas*. Jamesy lifted Kate's veil and gently kissed her. She lovingly cradled his face in her hands, as the groom embraced her tightly before they both turned around with beaming faces towards the elegant invitees, who wildly applauded.

Then Jamesy and Kate marched down the aisle as Mr. and Mrs. Juan Claudio Laya to the stirring music of Handel's "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba."

The couple's love story began in beautiful Barcelona, where they took their MBAs at the prestigious Instituto de Estudios Superiores de la Empresa (IESE).

Jamesy finished a management engineering course at Ateneo de Manila University while Kate read law at Cambridge University (she topped the UK examination in property law).

They graduated from IESE in 2003 and worked in Singapore (Jamesy as financial consultant for KPMG Corporate Finance Pte. Ltd. and Kate as manager of Barclays Capital). They became engaged in 2005.

International

Close to 50 relatives and close friends of some 20 nationalities jetted in from Europe, America and Singapore for the wedding. From England came Kate's parents, sister Lucy, and Michael and Charlotte Ansbro. From Spain and America came Jamesy's sisters Mianne, with husband Carlos Ortega; Sandra with husband Mario Zinampan, and Amy Laya.

Friends included Ruth Bond, Finnbar Finn, Sarah Garrett, Oliver Hynek, John and Jenny Pell, Steve and Sarah Wainright, Mark Bogner, Joshua Thompson, Roy Chason, Charissa Demetrius, Richard Grainger, Richard and Sian Hulsen, Blanca Lopez, Marcello Magaletti and Philippe Rassumssen.

PAKISTANI Faisal Galaria; American Rebekah Parker; Akiko Thompson; Thai Itthi Yossundara; with Jamesy Laya

BONG Sandoval; Marta Robles, former First Lady Imelda Marcos, Miho Hirata, Raj Nair, Philippe Rasmussen, Clarissa Cansani, David Robles, Mariam Amir-Ahmadi and Itthi Yossundara

THE COUPLE'S friends: Philip Caldwell, Susan Caldwell, Michael Ansbro, Lucy Ansbro and Ruth Bond

GROOM'S aunts and uncle: Mary Sandoval Locsin, Brigitte Sandoval, Lenor Sandoval, Victor Sandoval and Luisita Sandoval Itchon

GROOM'S school pals: Mei-Mei, Ray-An and Anthony Manalo; Sharon Vicente, Carlo Simpaico, Gino Cruz, Leah Chua, Gilbert Medina and Faye Cruz

MARIVIC Vasquez and lawyer Jose Mari Treñas

STAR cousins and amazing wedding designers Mike Sandoval and Marisa Esguerra

CLAUS Freund and Chuchi Sandoval

Jamesy's old friends who were there were Fernando and Moy Magallanes, Rolando Ybasco, Steven and J-Ann Samuela, and Martin Syquia.

The glittering dinner reception was at the original "lady by the bay," The Manila Hotel.

During cocktails, dahlings, the guests socialized as they sipped perfectly chilled bubbly from champagne flutes and nibbled on yummy hors d'oeuvres of shrimp with mango, smoked salmon and horseradish.

Members of Jaime Laya's and his late wife Alice's families circulated: Adelaida Lagumbay, Lilith Perez, Eleonor de Gracia, Trinidad Sensenig, Mario Binaday, Marissa and Leo Esguerra, Ricky and Maya Jacinto, Juan Medina and Susana Ocampo Sandoval.

Also seen were Lulu Tinio, Imelda Cojuangco, Bambi Harper, Erlinda Panlilio, Arturo and Tessi Luz, Greggy and Irene Araneta, Marivic Vazquez, Andy Liboro, José and Meding Cochico, Al and Charito Guerzon, Sebastian Palanca, Dave and Jane Hutchinson, Peter and Ann Olver, Clive and Stephanie Leach, Bjorn and Sue Mysen, Robert Young, Paulino and Hetty Que, Kit Roxas, popular couple Luis and Mellie Ablaza, Nenuca Araneta, Myrna Borromeo, Mercedes Teodoro, and tons of others like them, *palanggas*.

Untraditional

The wedding cake, with the traditional fruitcake at the top layer, was prepared by Moy Magallanes. Breaking away from tradition, the couple cut the cake in the reception area before sitting down to dinner. On the dining tables, towering, slender clear-glass vases held delicate baskets of baby-pink phalaenopses, white and old rose cymbidia, and apple-green molucellae (Bells of Ireland).

Dangling from the huge dome over the center of the ballroom were long strands of sampaguita alternating with dazzling Swarovski crystal pendants.

Guests feasted on clear chicken broth with young coconut meat and vegetables, tiger prawns in lemon grass coconut sauce, and roast beef tenderloin with Laguna cheese. They ended the meal with mango crepes in caramel sauce. Wine flowed throughout.

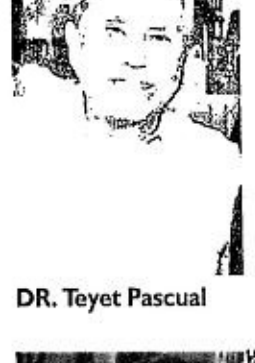
The dramatic moment came when the groom got up to speak. The speech began amusingly and included the expected thank you's. But he had everyone reaching for a handkerchief as he ended. Teary eyed himself, Jamesy said, "I know my adorable mother, Alice Laya, is smiling at me right now from above. And I thank you Kate, not only for making me the happiest man in the world, but for bringing out in me the person I had always wanted to be!"

Apres dinner, the curtains onstage opened and the hot Spirit of '67 had the guests rushing to the dance floor to rock till 3 a.m.

Now, that's what a fun wedding is all about, *n'est-ce pas, palanggas* (as in, *di bala?*) ?

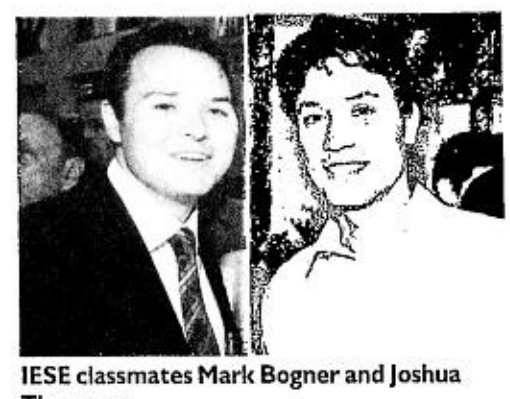
LULU Castañeda, Minerva Tanseco and Nenuca Araneta

GROOM'S Ateneo classmates: JP Vicente, Candy Reyes, Rachel Warren and Yael Buencamino



DR. Teyet Pascual

MARS Lambino

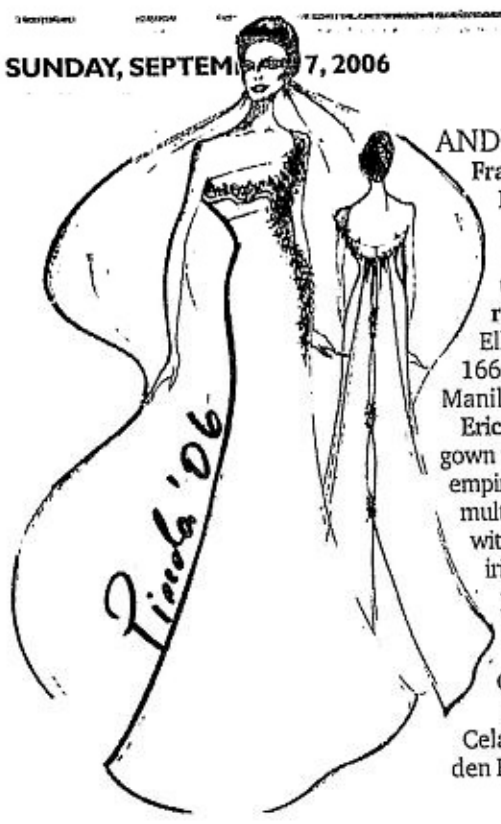


IESE classmates Mark Bogner and Joshua Thompson

MARIETTA Santos and Sandra Laya-Zinampan

WITH THE PRINCIPAL SPONSORS: Mianne Laya Ortega, Elizabeth Glynn, Luisita Sandoval Itchon, Cora Mariano Young, Julie Hill; Emilio T. Yap, Victor Sandoval, Carlos Ortega, Leo Fay and Christopher Glynn

THE BRIDE'S friends: Anita Fay, Sarah Scaddan, Jenny Green and Barry O'Leary

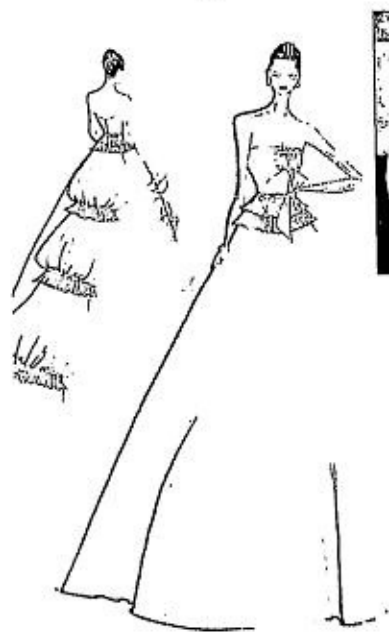


ANDINO-PEREZ

Francis A. Andino, son of **Fernando** and **Amelita Andino**, will wed **Sheila E. Perez**, daughter of **Bartolome** and **Buenaventuranza Perez**, Sept. 30 at Ellinwood Malate Church, 1660 Vasquez St., Malate, Manila.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown using ivory Italian satin with empire-cut, strapless bodice and multilayered flounce of silk gazar with handmade organdy petals, iridescent pailletes and faux pearls. The entourage's gowns were designed by **Tish Dacio** of Catarina Gown.

Reception follows at Celantro by Ibarra, Lotus Garden Hotel, Ermita, Manila.



Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

RIVERA-PELLEJERA

Robert Rivera, son of **Augusto** and **Maxima** (†) **Rivera**, will wed **Nessan Pellejera**, daughter of **Nestor** (†) and **Susan Pellejera**, Sept. 23 at Paco Baptist Church. Reception will follow at Aloha Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Malate Manila.

BAUTISTA-ALMAGRO

Arthur P. Bautista, son of **Amado** and **Dionisia Bautista**, will wed **Estanisla Pernita M. Almagro**, daughter of engineer **Pompeyo** and Dr. **Estanisla Almagro**, Sept. 23 at the Redemptorist Church, Cebu City. Reception follows at the Casino Español. The bridal gown of duchess satin is by **Anthony Romoff**.

DORIA-MARTIR

Marlon E. Doria, son of **Benigno** (†) and **Rosalia Doria**, will wed **Marissa F. Martir**, daughter of engineer **Reynaldo** and **Perlita Martir**, today at the Manila Cathedral, Intramuros. Reception follows at Discovery Suites, Pasig City.

The bride's gown and the groom's barong were done by **Gener Gozum**.

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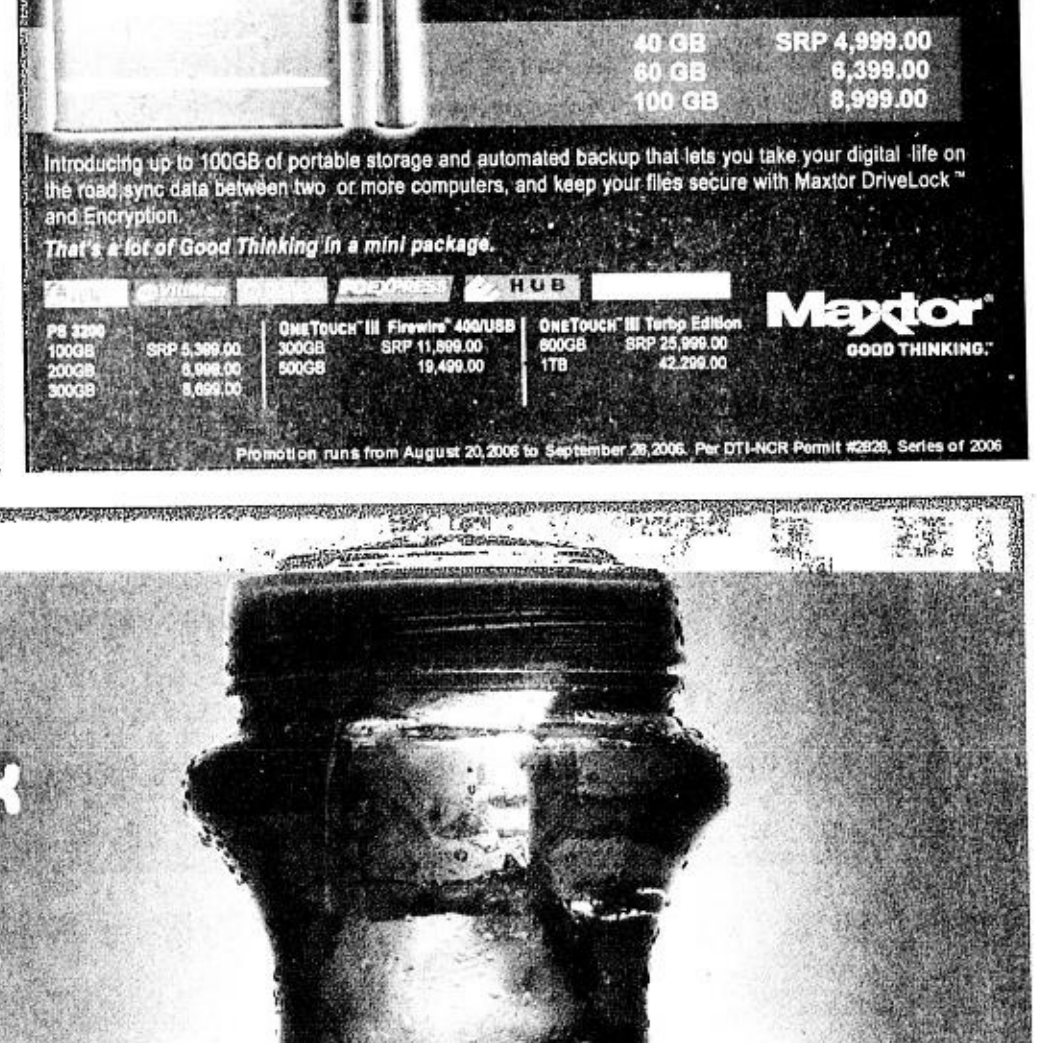

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MASBATE Bishop Joel Baylon cutting the ribbon to launch "Purely Personal Book of Miracles," with author Josie Darang and Cofradia president Aurora Eizmendi looking on (above); Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace (right)

Devotees flock to Lipa for Virgin's birthday

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

FORTY-EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the postulant Teresing Castillo on Sept. 12, 1948 in the garden of the Carmelite monastery in Lipa, Batangas, thousands joined the pilgrimage to the blessed place last Sept. 12.

They prayed for peace and celebrated the feast of the holy name of Mary.

Sept. 12 was declared National Day of Prayer, Reparation and Consecration by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Whether the influx of devotees to Lipa, where the image of Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace is enshrined in the monastery chapel, would finally move the Philippine church hierarchy into declaring the apparitions as authentic and true is another matter.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) led the call "let us go to Mary" and pleaded for peace and harmony.

CBCP declared 2006 as "Year of Social Concern" dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles expressed his personal belief in the Lipa apparitions. He said, as a young seminarian, he visited Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace in her chapel. He asked for "forgiving the past [when the devotion to her was stopped in 1951] and going on to honor Mary and love her as our Mother."

Fr. Melvin Castro launched the Confraternity of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace during the Sept. 12 Mass at the grounds of the Carmelite Monastery. It will work for the approval and recognition of the Lipa apparitions.

Our Lady's presence

Sometime in 2003, Danny Dolor brought me to Tayabas, Quezon to show me the tomb of Bishop Alfredo Obviar, founder of the Missionary Catechists of St. Therese and the first bishop of Lipa.

We dropped by the Carmelite monastery and were able to go inside the garden where Our Lady appeared to Sister Teresing.

Immediately I could feel Our Lady's presence by the warm feeling that enveloped me. I fell to my knees as if told it was holy ground.

Danny Dolor knelt, too, and we prayed for a while.

Book of miracles

When Mama Mary wants something to happen, it will happen. Such was the case with this writer's "Purely Personal Book of Miracles" launched Sept. 8 at Manila Manor Hotel. The book is a collection of my columns published in the INQUIRER the past 18 years.

Bishop Joel Baylon flew from Masbate to concelebrate the Thanksgiving Mass with Fr. Vir Mendoza of General Trias, Cavite; Fr. Diwane Cacao of the Sancti Dei Healing Center in Lopez Village, Los Baños, Laguna; Fr. Bernie Diaz of St. Vincent Seminary and former rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal; Msgr. Samuel Baculi of the Basilica of Piat in Cagayan Valley; and two Vietnamese priests.

Bobby Caballero was emcee. An icon of Our Lady of Piat on tarpaulin hung in the back. Tall flower arrangements came from the Society of St. Expeditus, Eucharistic Adorers League and Maris Dizon.

The beautiful High Mass was made more solemn by the Boses ng Diyos all-male choir brought by Tess Alsua, sister of Mark Jimenez. At least 200 friends celebrated with me.

I cried as I recounted how I suffered *achalasia* for five years before I wrote my first column "The Miracle of Our Lady of Manaoag in my Life." *Achalasia* prevented me from having food normally.

The miracle came when Dr. William Olalia of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital operated on me in 1985. My *Lola* Cela prayed to "Apo Baket" (Our Lady of Manaoag) during those five years, my brother Joe told me after the operation.

So I told friends not to stop praying and not to give up. I kept praying until the miracle happened. Sound Publishing Corp. will make the book available at National Bookstore in two weeks.

Convention

Filipinos will attend the international convention of the Cofradia de Immaculada-Fatima in Fatima, Portugal. They will be led by Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, national spiritual director of the *cofradia* in the Philippines.

Other places to be visited are Lisbon, Lourdes, Santiago de Compostela, Madrid, Montserrat, Barcelona, Zaragoza, Cavadonga, Salamanca, Porto and Oviedo. Call 5211651, 5211638 or 5211698.

Feast day

Parishes dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy will celebrate her feast day Sept. 24: Taysan, Batangas; Matatalahib, Tarlac; Bahay Pare, Candaba, Pampanga; Novaliches, QC; and Holy Trinity Parish, Barrio San Nicolas, Bacoor, Cavite.

Barrios in Bacoor will join the *karakol* at 7 a.m. from Molino I. Mercy Naral donated the new vestments of "Nana Cedes" (the affectionate name for Our Lady of Mercy), Gina Manome gave the new crown while Boy Ponce provided the vestments for Mass to be worn by Bishop Chito Tagle and Fr. Boyet Santiago, parish priest, who will concelebrate the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

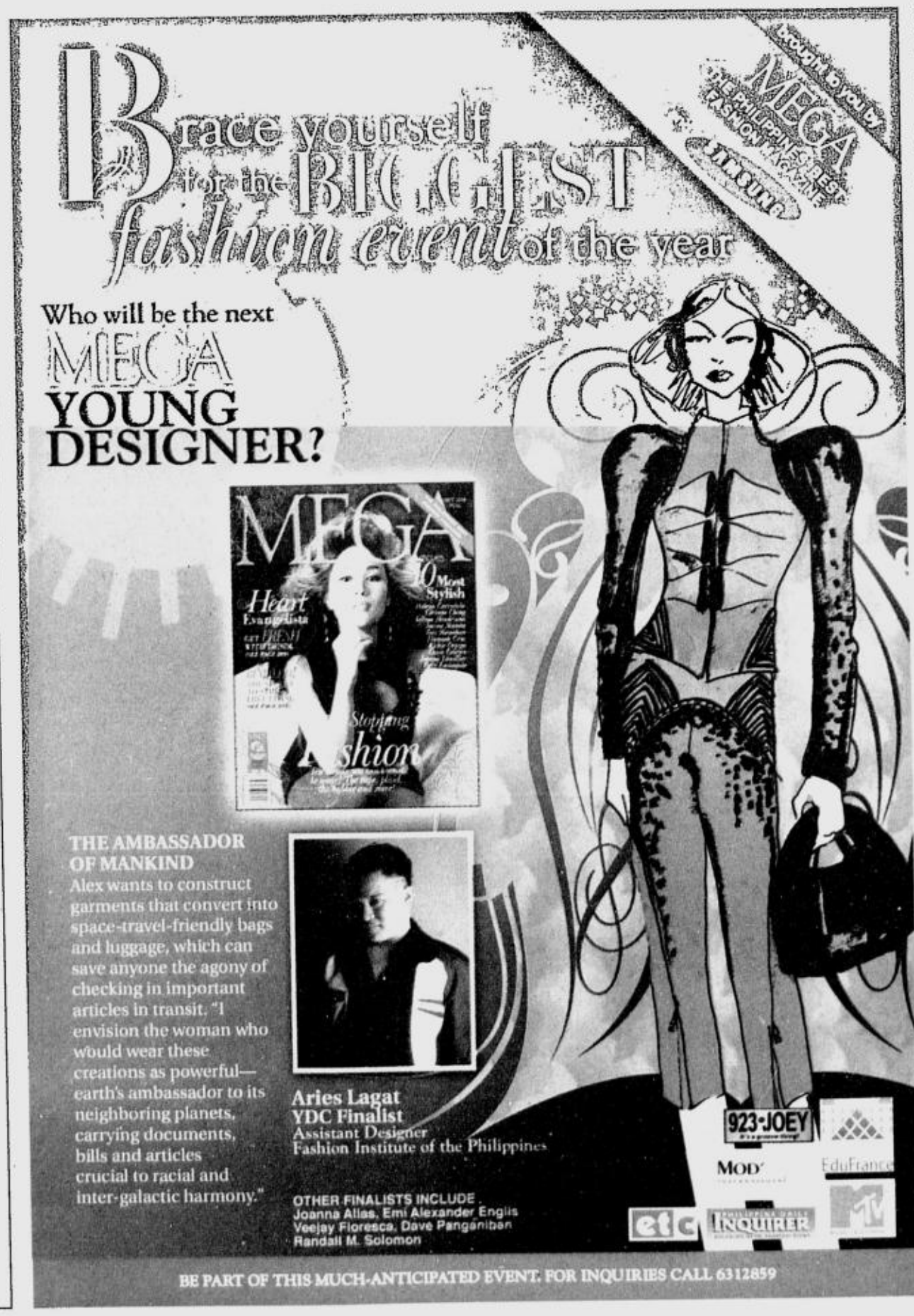
Goodbye

Former Legazpi Mayor Mely Roces died of aneurysm several days recently. Those who knew her were truly devastated by the news.

I have been the blessed recipient of *Tita* Mely's kindness and hospitality when I covered the Ibalong festival in Legazpi in the early '90s.

Tita Mely supported the arts and culture of Bicol, making us aware of how rich the people were in traditions. She was a very good mayor.

Condolences to her family, especially my dear friend Billy Roces, and the people who were blessed with her kindness.



YOLANDA Oporto, Vivina Yrastorza, Pepit Revilles and Fe Villarica

PHINEAS and Lydia Alburo, Nelia Neri and Toti Villalon

SOLY Taladua with Cherry and Hun Muntuerto

Casa Gorordo reopens

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

CASA GORORDO, BUILT IN THE 1860S, IS LOcated in the old district of downtown Cebu. It has survived the onslaught of time, including the Philippine revolution and World War II when 90 percent of Cebu was destroyed by fire.

The house was home to Bishop **Juan Gororddo**, the first native Cebuano to head the archdiocese of Cebu, more than a hundred years ago. The house went to his niece, Señorita **Telesfora Jaen,** whom many of us still remember well, specially because of visits during Christmas to see the *belen*.

The house was then passed on to her nephews, among them **Pepit Revilles**, one of the last to live there. Ever gracious, she always allowed people to see the place.

In the early 1980s, the house was bought by the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (Rafi), then headed by Ramon's son, Don **Eduardo Aboitiz.**

Now, Don Eduardo's three sons are at the helm of Rafi with its multifarious civic, charity and social service projects. For **Jon** and his wife **Chary, Roberto** and his wife **Marian, Mikel** and his wife **Robin**, *Casa Gorordo* holds a very special place.

Museum

In 1983, the restored house was inaugurated as a museum depicting life and style in 19th century Cebu. Numerous tourists and VIPs visited, and the National Historical Commission put a plaque.

Wear and tear, plus termites and rain water that leaked through the roof's red tiles, caused the closure of the museum for repairs. **Toti Villalon**, who did the original restoration work, was called. The job took over a year of meticulous effort.

The task completed, there was a re-launch of Casa Gorordo, a colorful affair with guests wearing Filipiniana. A *rondalla* played while people milled around the old-fashioned garden where a centenary flowering vine climbs up to the *azotea* trellis.

Cebu Gov. **Gwendolyn Garcia** and beauty queen **Gemma Cruz Araneta** cut the ceremonial ribbon, together with **Pepit** and Tourism Undersecretary (based in Cebu) **Phineas Alburo**, who came with his lovely wife **Lydia**.

During the brief program, Governor Gwen said, "It is with a distinct Cebuano pride that I am here. This event represents not just a rebirth, but the continuity of tradition and a connection with the past."

Later, with cousin **Nelia Garcia Neri**, they recalled their childhood when they went to the house to visit Señorita Jaen, a client of their lawyer fathers. Governor Gwen's is former Cebu Governor Pablo Garcia, while Nelia's was the late lawyer **Jesus Garcia Sr.**, whose children and grandchildren also practice the family profession.

A tour of the house was led by the Aboitizes—**Bobby** and **Marian**, and Mikel; Cebu City Vice Mayor **Michael Rama**, who remembered living in this house for a time; and **Soly Taladua**, who holds office in Casa Gorordo as Rafi's heritage program coordinator. Years ago she was the museum curator. Soly was lured back to Cebu from her tranquil ancestral home in Bohol.

The spacious ground floor of Casa Gorordo used to accommodate other Rafi offices that were moved to the spacious Don Eduardo Aboitiz building across the street.

Art gallery

The vacated space is now an art gallery, which was also inaugurated. Cutting the ribbon was **Cherry Suzara Muntuerto**, wife of prominent lawyer and civic leader **Anastacio Muntuerto Jr.**

An impressive exhibit marked the inaugural featuring the works of **Bart "Boy" Kiamko,**

CASA GORORDO/ E3

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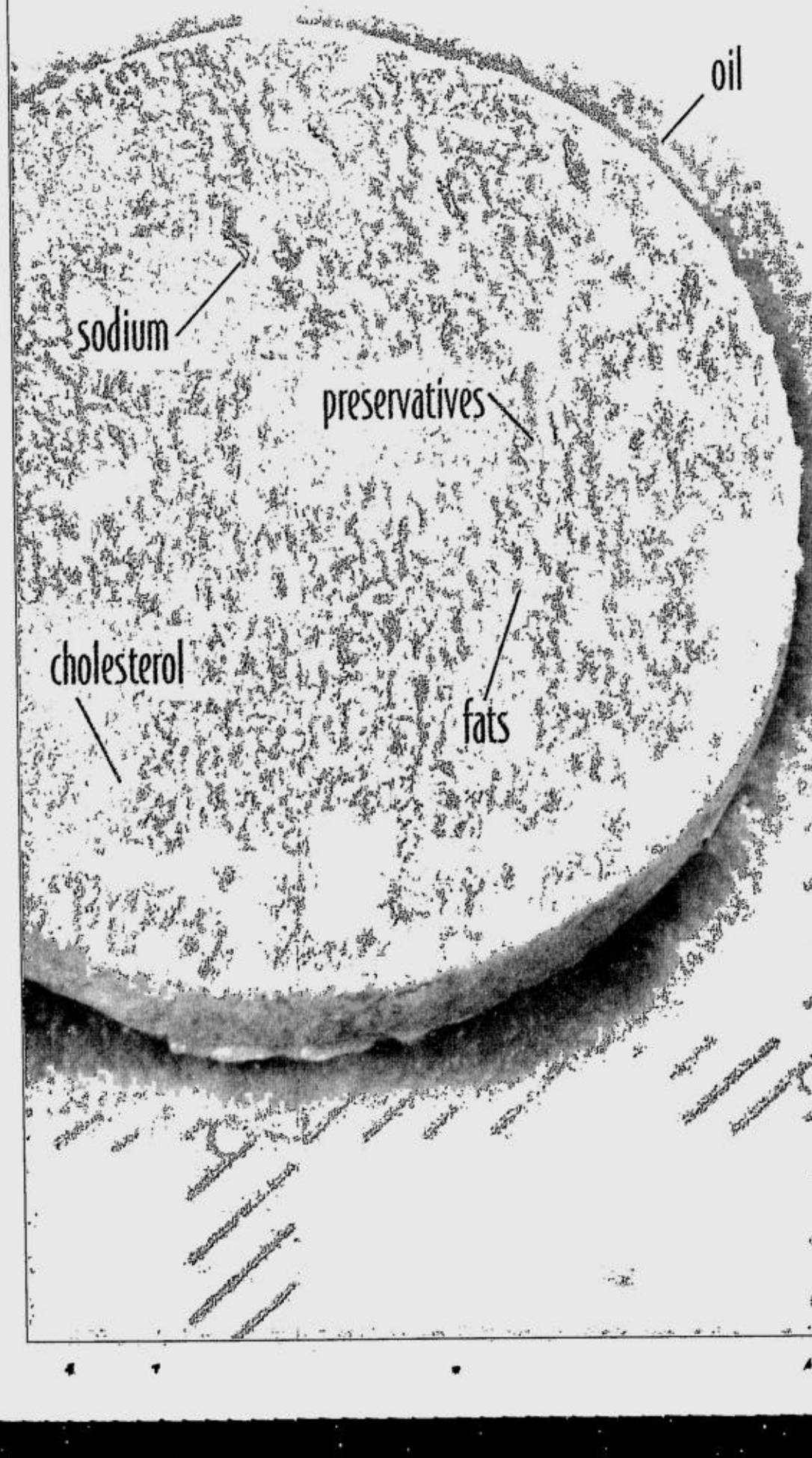

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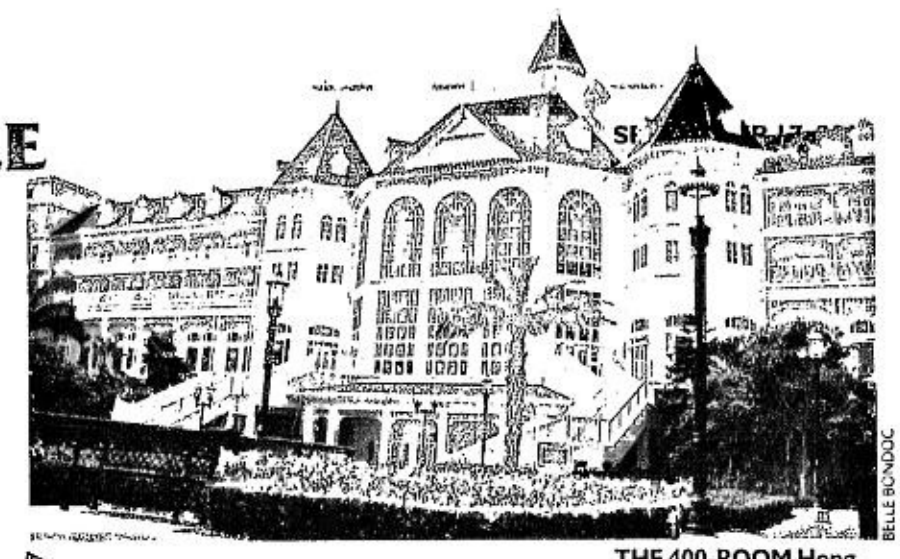
STITCH was introduced in the Walt Disney 2002 animated comedy, "Lilo & Stitch."

Disney theme parks are more than just thrilling rides and magic castles



BELLE BONDOC

THE 400-ROOM Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel inspired by Disney's Grand Floridian Resort and Spa in the Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland in Paris

Hong Kong's youngest attraction is a year old

By Belle V. Bondoc

HONG KONG DISNEYland, the newest yet smallest of Disney theme parks, celebrates its first anniversary this month. It is on its way to establishing the Chinese autonomous region's image as a destination for families and for people of all ages.

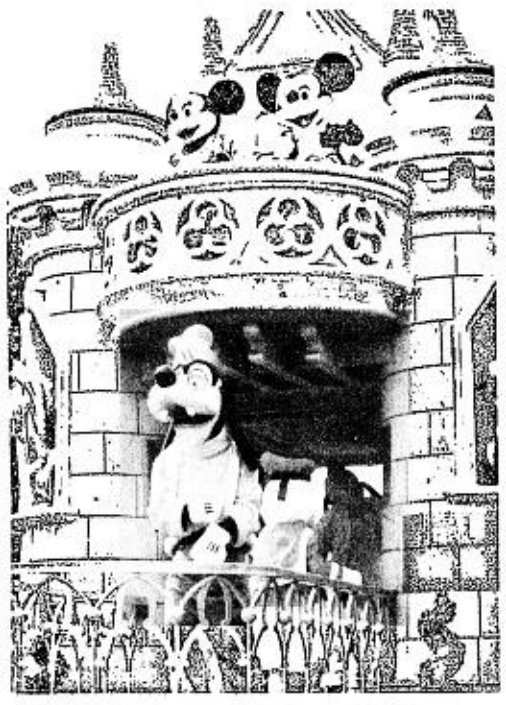
Susan Chan, Disneyland publicity director, said the theme park's campaigns and promotions were certainly paying off. With the introduction of package deals that include attractive hotel accommodations, more and more families are visiting.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) reported that July arrivals reached over 2.18 million, totaling to 14.38 million arrivals from January to July. This represented a 5.7-percent increase compared to tourist arrivals for the same period last year.

"The market we are [really] trying to attract are families with kids," said Chan, "as well as adults 18-35 years old who have more disposable income."

Guests who visited the park, she said, were mostly from Mainland China, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, Australia and the South Pacific.

UFO ZONE features waterfalls and spaceships, water-spraying robot and water-squirting ray gun.



DISNEY characters are alive at HK Disney.

BELLE BONDOC

SPECIAL Mango Pudding at Corner Café

BELLE BONDOC

DISNEY STUDIOS. Dancers wearing skirts that look like large movie film reels from the cartoon short, "Plane Crazy," starring Mickey Mouse. BELLE BONDOC

FUTURISTIC fantasies and soaring space adventures fill "Land of Tomorrow."

BELLE BONDOC

"THE GOLDEN Mickeys," a 30-minute live show celebrating Disney's best-loved movies, music and characters BELLE BONDOC

Unlimited access

In celebration of its first anniversary, HK Disney introduced the Summer Pass, an entry ticket allowing guests unlimited access to facilities and other perks until Sept. 28. With the Summer Pass, guests can make frequent visits to the park and win prizes.

Though a day is not enough to explore Disneyland's wonderful attractions, one fan reportedly was so carried away she visited the park 12 times in 18 days.

With the Summer Pass, guests can also buy the limited-edition Summer 2006 commemorative pins at Professor Porter's Trading Post in Adventureland.

As an ultimate reward, 20 Summer Pass holders who visit the park the most number of times during the promo period will receive a Disney Magic Vacation worth HK$11,000 (about P77,000). Each winner will get one-night accommodation in Kingdom Club Suite at the HK Disneyland Hotel; four admission tickets to Disney Park; a complimentary breakfast at the Kingdom Club; a high-tea set from the Grand Salon; and dinner at Enchanted Garden Restaurant.

Winners will be announced Oct. 20 on HK Disneyland's official website, www.hongkongdisneyland.com.

Disney theme parks are more than just thrilling rides and magic castles. They include fine-dining restaurants, convention complexes, shopping facilities, night entertainment and many high-tech attractions.

'Happiest place on earth'

The Disney fact book says Walt created the first Disneyland because he wanted a safe, clean place where parents and children could enjoy themselves together. That first park came to be regarded as "the happiest place on earth."

Disney became a byword for clean, wholesome family entertainment with its emphasis on sentimentality and nostalgia. It is also a showcase of creativity and imagination—in landscaping, fairy tale-inspired architecture (like Sleeping Beauty's castle) and exotic costumes for its hosts.

The newest Disney resort on Lantau Island is about 10 minutes away from the international airport, and less than 30 minutes by train, ferry or motorway from downtown Hong Kong.

The park's general layout was patterned after the original Disneyland in Anaheim, California. It can accommodate some 30,000 people.

The interactive rides are grouped into three wonderlands: Adventureland, Fantasyland and Tomorrowland.

Though the park is relatively small, it still has too many activities for just one day. Some favorite attractions inspired by Disney movies include Dumbo, the Flying Elephant; Mad Hatter Tea Cups, Cinderella Carousel, Main Street Vehicles, Orbitron, Tarzan's Treehouse and the Jungle River Cruise.

New attractions

Recently, the park unveiled three family-oriented attractions at Tomorrowland: Autopia, UFO Zone and Stitch Encounter.

Autopia is one of the most popular among parents and kids. Guests can take the wheel and drive around manicured byways for five minutes.

All of Autopia's battery-operated cars (by Honda) have the same body style, combining elements of a classic car and the rounded forms of a futuristic space vehicle. Each car has its unique "engine noise" and colorful lights.

UFO (Unbelievably Fun Objects) Zone is considered an alien oasis. Waterfalls and brightly colored spaceships complete the UFO Zone. Here, guests will find a noisy, water-spraying robot; water-squirting ray gun; a worn out rocket ship; a flying saucer; and an "alien" plant that unexpectedly wiggles water around every few minutes.

Stitch Encounter features a fuzzy and lovable blue alien known as "Experiment 626." First introduced in Walt Disney Pictures' 2002 animated film "Lilo & Stitch," he engages the audience in real time, spontaneous conversation.

Stitch Encounter is a 12-minute show using computer graphic animation technology created by Walt Disney Imagineering, the creative team behind Disney. The system allows guests to talk, joke and play with Stitch. The show is offered in English and the Chinese languages of Cantonese and Putonghua.

Highlights of the Disney adventure include "Festival of the Lion King" at the Theater in the Wild and "The Golden Mickeys" in Disney's Storybook Theater. Both shows are held several times a day.

HK Disney also features daily "Disney on Parade" with floats, musicians, dancers and favorite Disney characters.

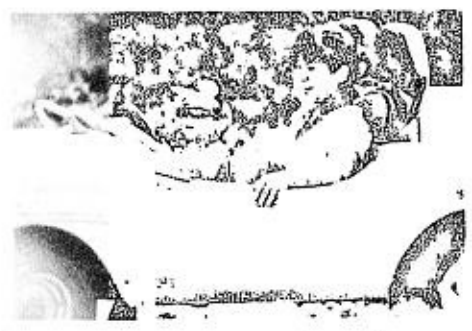
Disney is also promoting the park as a venue for meetings, incentive travels, conventions and exhibitions. Guests may arrange their own private meetings, even parties. Reservation is required.

Tickets are priced at HK$295 for adults, HK$210 for children (3-11 years old), and HK$170 for seniors on weekdays.

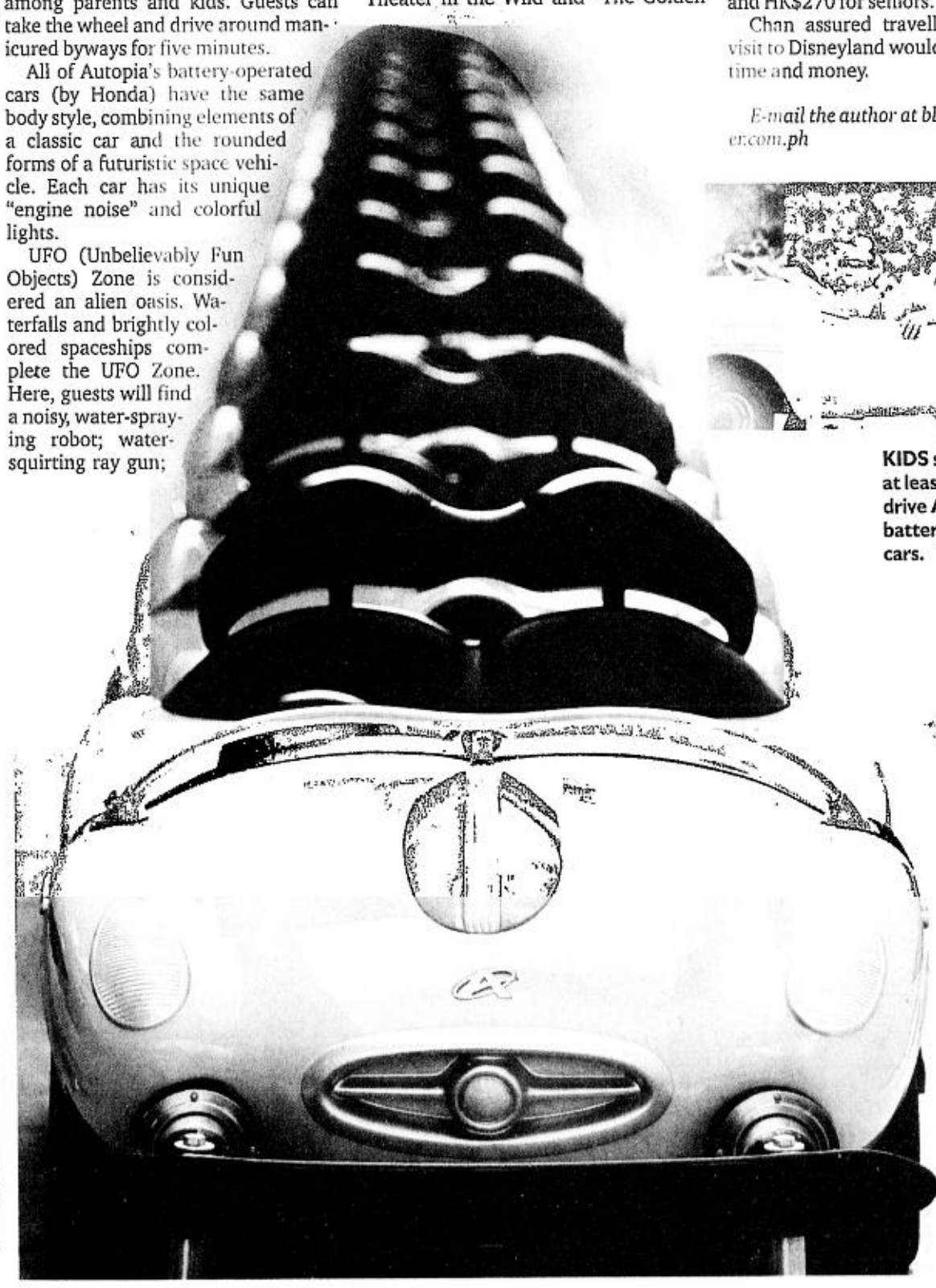
On weekends and peak days, such as holidays, rates are HK$350 for adults, HK$250 for kids and HK$200 for senior citizens. Summer Pass is priced at HK$450 for adults, HK$320 for kids and HK$270 for seniors.

Chan assured travellers that every visit to Disneyland would be worth their time and money.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph



KIDS should be at least 4.5 feet tall to drive Autopia's battery-operated cars.



BOY Kiamko, Bobby Aboitiz; (below) Mikel Aboitiz and Marian Aboitiz

Casa Gorordo reopens

From page E1

one of the most avidly collected painters in the south. It consisted of 80 of his recent works in oil and acrylic, plus a series of pen-and-ink landscapes of Molave, Zamboanga del Sur.

Boy K lived in Cebu for many years before relocating to this idyllic spot in Mindanao. For exercise, he bikes around the countryside, with a pad and pen in his satchel.

Rustic and bucolic scenery prompt him to stop now and then to sketch. At home, he sketches some more from memory.

He made 60 of the pen-and-inks in 45 days. He brought them to Davao City, being easily accessible to him, and they sold like the proverbial hotcakes. It's a good thing he saved some for Cebu.

At his opening, he was very busy greeting friends from way back, accepting heaps of congratulations. He promised to be back in Cebu more often.

Soly Taladua is happy to announce that more exhibits and events are scheduled at the Casa Gorordo gallery.

Cebu's Women in Literary Arts has scheduled the launch of a recent anthology by its members. The Cebu Art Association, the oldest art organization in the Philippines, has a group show in December. **Celso Pepito**, also one of the top artists in Cebu, has set a one-man show in January to coincide with the feast of Cebu's patron, Santo Niño, and the Sinulog Festival.

TravelBriefs

Rainy day special

Club Manila East in Taytay, Rizal, introduces its wet season special, "Keeping the bond strong and making it last," featuring special packages for couples and *barkadas*. The Couples Delight Package, P3,695, includes overnight accommodations for two, dinner for two, and breakfast. Couples also get a surprise gift. The special Barkada Treat Package for groups of 4-20 costs P900 per person. It includes overnight stay, dinner, etc. Call 6602801, 2844740 or 6582065. Visit www.clubmanilaeast.com.

Website for travel agents

Northwest Airlines is launching a new version of its World Agent Direct Website for travel agents in Asia. The site will offer an all-new Internet booking engine that will provide functions and benefits to travel agencies while lowering the airline's distribution costs. Agents can visit www.agents.nwa.com/asia. Northwest Airlines, the world's fifth largest airline, is a member of SkyTeam, an airline alliance that offers customers one of the world's most extensive global networks. The alliance serves more than 900 cities in some 160 countries on six continents.

Boracay off-season package

Inscribe Tours offers the Boracay Getaway Tour Sept. 21-24. Accommodations for the 3-night, 4-day tour will be at Boracay Tropics Resort Hotel, rated AAA by the Department of Tourism. Guests will enjoy the resort's themed evenings for dinner, poolside massage, and a range of activities like island-hopping and visit to a butterfly sanctuary. The getaway package includes round-trip flight via Asian Spirit and airport-hotel transfers. Call Inscribe Tours at 8405912 and 5758370.

New York promo

Philam Savings Bank will raffle off two six-day, five-night vacations to New York City, USA, in American-themed Big Apple promo. Each New York travel package comes with a free hotel accommodation at Waldorf Astoria hotel, two tickets to the winner's Broadway show choice and US$1,000 pocket money. To join, just book an auto loan or deposit with Philam Savings Bank. Visit the nearest Philam Savings Bank branch for inquiries. Promo period ends Oct. 31. The winner will be drawn Nov. 23.

'Shop your way to Milan'

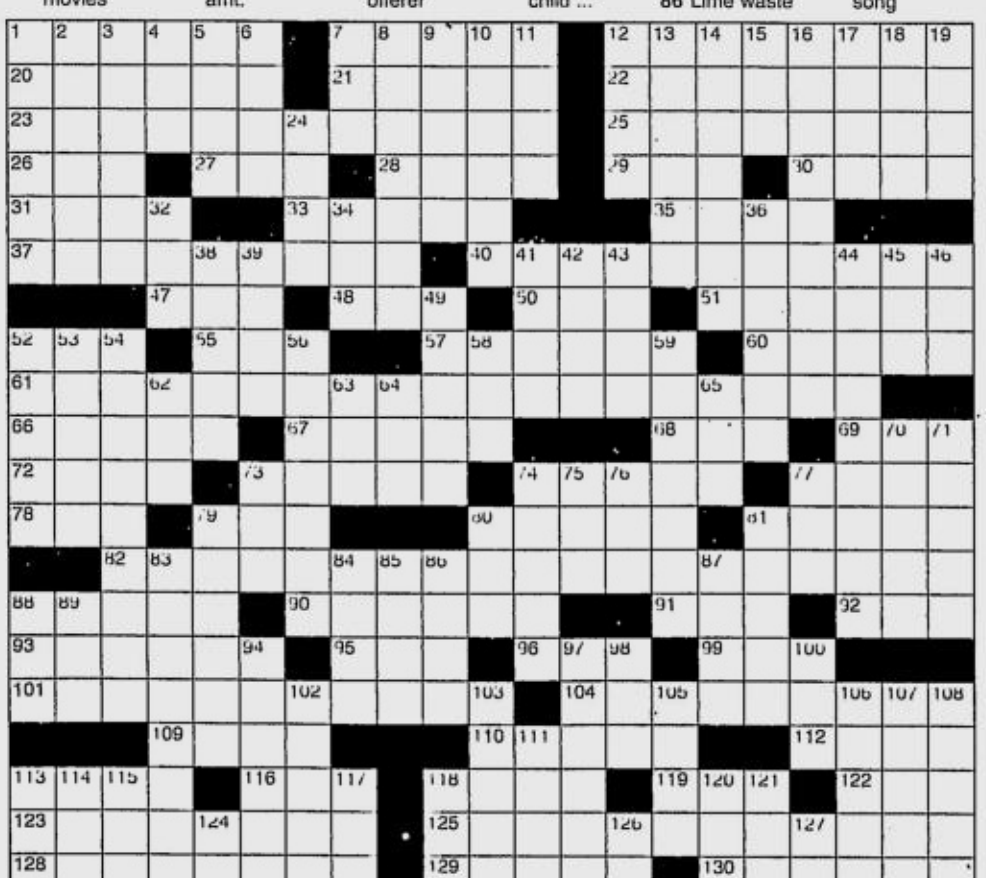
Singapore Airlines, The Podium, and the Embassy of Italy showcase the history, arts, fashion and flavors of Milan until Nov. 8 in "Shop Your Way to Milan." A two-week tourism exhibit at The Podium Lounge runs until Sept. 22. "Shop your Way to Milan" entitles Singapore Airlines boarding pass holders a chance to win two round-trip tickets to Milan via SIA economy class. Join by simply making a minimum purchase of P1,500 in any of the over 40 participating restaurants and shops at The Podium. Log on to www.singaporeair.com/boardingpass.

Sunday Crossword

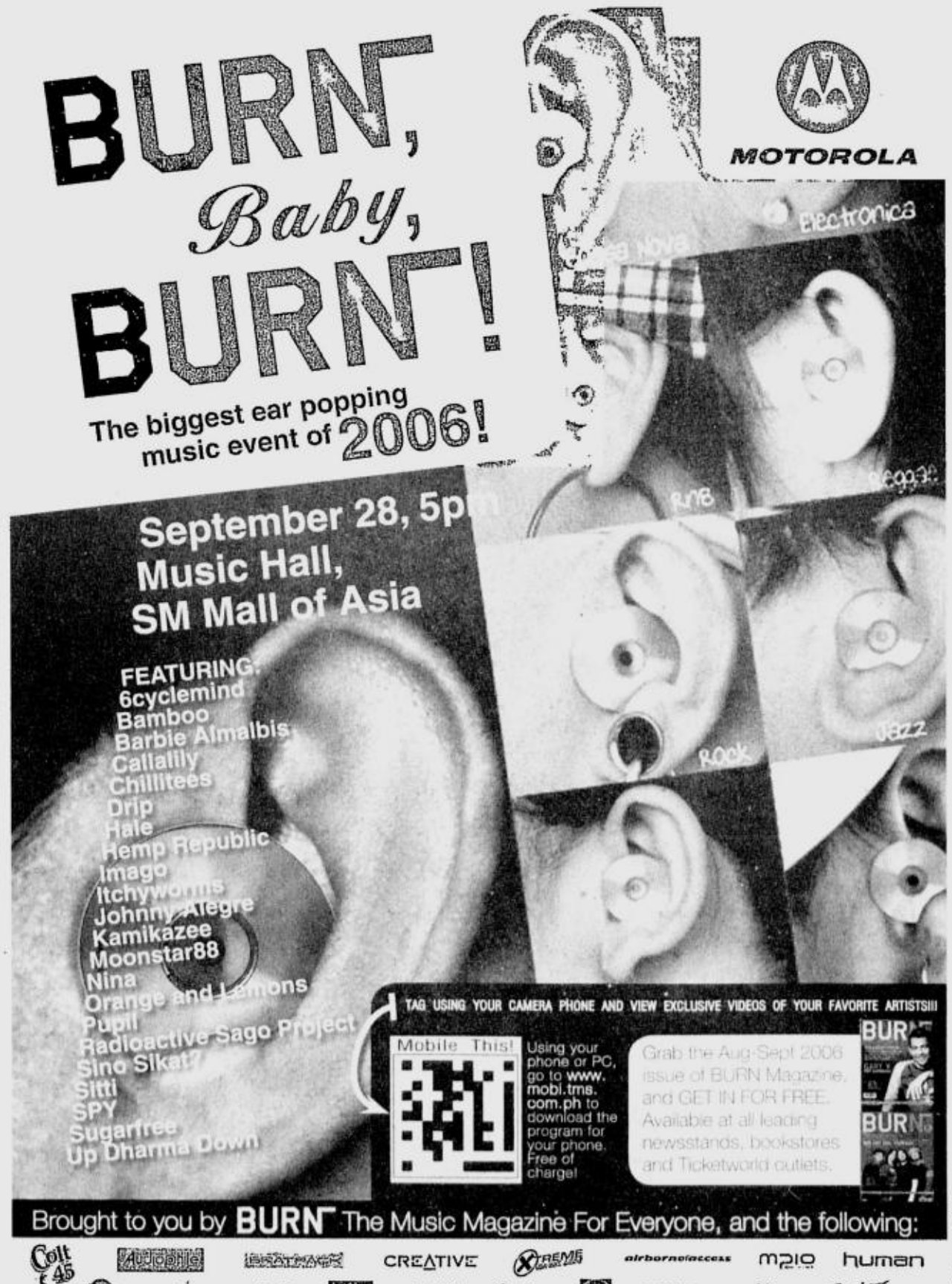
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — KID PRO QUO

ACROSS
1 Kitchen fixtures
7 Bones near biceps
12 Tennis star Jennifer
20 Of horses
21 Pope's crown
22 Organized
23 Suddenly show a punt in a filmed football game?
25 "White Christmas" wish
26 Smack
27 "— Na Na"
28 Has a meal
29 "— a real nowhere man ..."
30 Paris hub
31 French geography features
33 — Wipes (towelette brand)
35 Thunder god
37 Molded mass of soil?
40 Place where cows play tennis?
47 Oom- —
48 Some are personal
50 Merkel of movies
51 Heavenly body
52 Heavenly body
55 Laceration
57 "— been something I ate"
60 Poker contributions
61 King Louis XVI's eager wife?
66 Peeves
67 Smells
68 Go out with
69 "Cool, dude!"
72 Give — to (endorse)
73 Be miserly
74 Kareem — -Jabbar
77 Not certain
78 It's opposite NNE
79 Bakery item
80 Qom citizen
81 See 10-Down
82 Laminate a page of the Bible?
88 Twisted wit
90 Most docile
91 Actress Scala
92 Aliens, for short
93 Pistol, in old slang
95 Suffering
96 Approximate amt.
99 MoMA part
101 Write bad checks without inhibition?
104 Bagpiper's bizarrely patterned garment?
109 Way off
110 Atheist Madalyn Murray —
112 Epps of film
113 A Brady boy
116 Conniving
118 Baseballer — Wilhelm
119 Checking or savings: Abbr.
122 Unbroken
123 Document certifiers
125 Power-wielding relatives?
128 Barbeau of "Maude"
129 Poet Van Duyn and others
130 Assante or Hammer
131 10th grader, e.g.
132 Sallie Mae offerings
133 Desert basin floors

DOWN
1 PC support offerer
2 Eagle constellation
3 Churned stuff
4 Set aflame
5 Grandson of Adam
6 Son of Adam
7 Salt Lake City college athlete
8 Compared
9 River nymph
10 With 81-Across, Baffin Island locale
11 Rival of Bloomies
12 ATM output
13 Peter of CNN
14 Sports player's store
15 Uncooked
16 Tipster
17 Ice cream thickener
18 Tattle
19 One way to chatter
24 Laugh syllables
32 Motor oil additive
34 Abbr. before an alias
36 Recently
38 Injures
39 — Pet
41 Eject
42 "For — us a child ..."
43 Sitar master Shankar
44 Meddle
45 Robert E. —
46 Some chessmen: Abbr.
49 Intelligent
52 Gumbo pods
53 Bridles
54 Wholesale, perhaps
56 Safeguard
58 Little — (tykes)
59 Happening as a result
62 Jarrett of NASCAR
63 Infamous Amin
64 Long time
65 Long fish
70 Pull — one
71 Force units
73 Use an easy chair
74 Sharp mountain ridge
75 Pub
76 Gene stuff
77 Luge surface
79 Settle, as a debt
80 "— a date!"
81 Egg maker
83 Another time
84 Actress Goldie
85 Run — (go wild)
86 Lime waste
87 Cameron of "Charlie's Angels"
88 Milf
89 King, in Cannes
94 Wiping clean
97 Singer-actor Crothers
98 Centennial lead-in
100 Ring victory, for short
102 Dahl or Francis
103 Attention-getting cry
105 Limp as —
106 Comment after a fall
107 Weather phenomenon with a famous "brother"
108 In things
111 Fox relative
113 Tiny pest
114 Went by train, e.g.
115 To be, to Henri
117 Belgian river
118 WWW page standard
120 Bloke
121 PC key abbr.
124 Stephen of "Citizen X"
126 Magazine printing: Abbr.
127 Sumac of song



answer on page E4



Pen pal is now 'missing in action'

DEAR EMILY,

I am 30 years old and working as a housemaid for a family of expatriates. My problem is my pen pal. He saw my picture from a relative whose husband is his officemate.

We started corresponding in February. Last May, he started calling me regularly on the telephone.

We also began sending e-mail to each other. He said he wanted to meet me, and asked me to visit him in the United States as his fiancée. I declined, afraid he would change his mind about me.

We've already talked about marriage and I agreed, provided he would be the one to come to the Philippines. We plan to get married when he comes here this month.

But on the second week of June he stopped calling and e-mailing me. I used to receive messages from him every day.

I'm very confused now. I can't think of any reason why he would do this. I know he is busy, but I'm still worried. I'm falling for him and I don't want to lose him.

I don't know his phone number since I never asked for it. Shall I still hope that this relationship will end in marriage?

I tried to stop thinking of him to no avail.

LEN

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

'Shall I still hope that this relationship will end in marriage?'

This pen pal of yours is gone... kaput... lost—short of confirming it on radio and television, or putting an announcement in the papers! From your short letter, I cannot blame you for feeling miserable.

Who wouldn't be flattered by an offer of marriage, sight unseen? What woman wouldn't flip over that? But you may be pining for someone who—like Elvis—has already left the building. In show biz, it means the star of the show has already disappeared and won't be performing anymore.

In your case, he has gone before he even started.

What happened to your "amorous" pen pal, was a momentary act of madness. A person in love cannot just abandon the object of his affection. Never! Unless he got run over by a truck and couldn't say goodbye.

How could he have proposed marriage when he hasn't eyeballed you or tried to even come over? You would have known how honest his intentions are if he seriously worked to get you your fiancée's visa.

Securing that visa is no joke. A lot of documentation is required and your pen pal would have gone through a wringer to get it all done.

Don't feel too bad about it though. Be happy, in a way, because for a few wonderful months, you woke up with a smile and dreamed dreams that you never dreamed before. He made you forget your dreary chores and, from a distance, he made you feel wanted and loved.

Not everything went to waste then. It was fun while it lasted. But be wary next time about honeyed words and marriage proposals coming through telephone lines or computers screens. Hopefully, you've learned a bitter lesson in all this. Amen.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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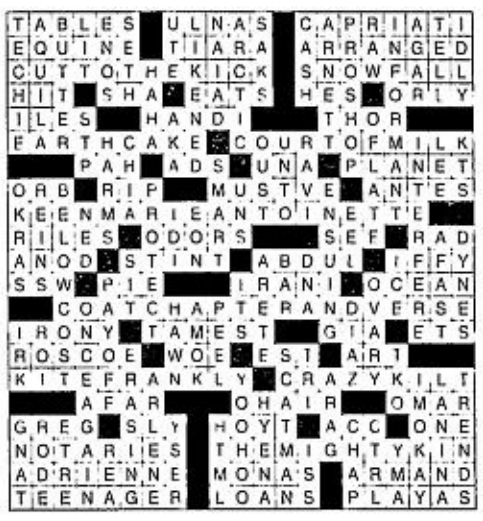

The birthday cake, the Christmas cake, the baptismal cake, the graduation cake, the balikbayan cake, the pasalubong cake, the anniversary cake, the inauguration cake, the cake with layers and layers of chocolate wafers, the "I just found out I'm pregnant" cake, the "I just got a promotion" cake, the baby's first step cake, the Sunday family dinner cake, the cake with roasted cashews and luscious praline cream, the "my son got into college" cake, the "boys are coming over for the big game" cake, the "I got top honors at school" cake, the despedida cake, the cake with a tower of premium chocolate.
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LUKAS ROSSI high on triumph AP

‘Little punk’ gets the job

By Fran Katigbak

“LUKAS, YOU’RE OUR BOY. WELCOME.”

Thus, rock superstar Tommy Lee anointed Toronto native Lukas Rossi front man of the new rock group that debuted at the finale of the CBS reality TV show “Rock Star: Supernova.”

Lukas beat 14 finalists in the global search.

He will release an album under Epic Records in November and tour 30 cities with Supernova’s famous core members, drummer Tommy (Motley Crew), guitarist Gilby Clarke (Guns N’ Roses) and bassist Jason Newsted (Metallica).

“I just want to thank all my fans out there who put me here—they chose a little punk from Toronto, Ontario,” Lukas said in a video interview posted on rockstar.msn.com.

“We must be doing something right,” he said of being the second Canadian rocker to win “Rock Star.” Last year, JD Fortune, from Saltspring, Nova Scotia, became the front man of former all-Australian band INXS.

Apart from impressive showmanship—as best illustrated by his take on Radiohead’s “Creep” during the search—Lukas has 15 years in the music industry to back him up.

He wrote, co-produced and sang for albums of various Canadian bands, including his own, Cleavage. He toured with rock

LITTLE/ F2

Reality show faces extreme challenge

Cinderella-like turn for makeover participants in QTV version

By Nini Valera

TRANSFORMING UGLY ducklings into beautiful swans. This is what the US hit series “Extreme Makeover” is all about. QTV11 brings the reality show to local viewers and gives it a local dimension.

“We’ve done this several times—putting Filipino subtitles on canned shows to localize it,” said Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment TV.

With various incarnations of beauty makeovers in practically every variety show on cable and free TV, “Extreme Makeover” is in for an extreme challenge. Why would TV audiences want to watch it?

“It’s not all about vanity,” Galvante said. “It’s real life unfolding on TV.”

In one episode, Galvante said, experts discuss why three women need a physical overhaul.

“At the end of the episode, the women are revealed to the audience and to their family,” she said.

To spice things up further, the network tapped two beauty experts to act as presenters each week—Dr. Pie Calayan, chief dermatologist of Calayan Surgicenter; and Jessica Rodriguez-Bunevacz, talent

REALITY/ F2

Ryza: I’m not stealing Cogie

Text and photo by Nini Valera

“STARSTRUCK SEASON 2” ULTIMATE survivor Ryza Cenon says her experience in the reality talent search has helped her survive show biz, including the vicious intrigues that have lately made her the subject of tabloid blind items.

“If not for that training, I wouldn’t have become this strong against intrigues,” she told INQUIRER Entertainment in Filipino during an exclusive interview on Tuesday.

Ryza, 18, has been described in gossip columns as a snake trying to snag Cogie Domingo, who is supposed to be dating Lovi Poe.

The young star said there’s no truth to the rumors, and that she and Cogie are just friends. “I’m also friends with Lovi,” she insisted. “It’s not true that Cogie and I have been sending each other text messages. He has only sent me text messages three times, and only as a friend.”

Ryza was forced to react to blind items and say her piece during a guest appearance on “Startalk” last week.

“I met the reporter who wrote the

RYZA/ F2

Ryza: I'm not stealing Cogie

From page F1

blind item," said Ryza. "He asked why I reacted, when he did not name me. I told him I was hurt and that the report was unfair."

What rankled most, she added, was how the stories affected her grandmother Aida, who raised her after her mother died when she was only 3. Her father, who works in Abu Dhabi, also heard the story and was disappointed, Ryza said.

Now living on her own in a rented apartment, with only an assistant and a driver, Ryza considers herself a responsible adult. She said she moved out of a relative's house with her father's consent.

"I pay P12,000 a month for the apartment, and I signed a year's contract for it," she said. "I hope to save enough money to buy a house. My father has a new family now; I told him to focus on them. My grandmother has a business in the province and can't stay with me. I don't mind living alone. I mostly stay home-when I'm not working."

Next year, Ryza plans to take up home studies for a high school refresher course. She said she has forgotten most of what she learned in school. But the learning she acquired outside school has proven to be more valuable, she noted. She imparts some of this wisdom to other young people who want to be stars, especially those who would be trying their luck in the next season of "Starstruck."

Ryza said: "They should have confidence in themselves. Most young people have talent to show but are scared of being embarrassed. They should not be [if they're] serious about a show biz career."

FINAL 2. Antagonists from t Lukas

'Little pu

groups Papa Roach, Tea Pa Wreck.

'Heroes'

No less admirable are Lu co-finalists whom Supernov their respective countries' "h lana Robichaux of Texas, Rand of Melbourne, Aust Magni Asgiersson of Reyk land.

Runner-up Dilana, whose sial slip-up with the media down the rankings at some p show, fought her way to the a very memorable performa Police's "Roxanne."

Looking dejected after umph was declared, her when Gilby offered to help for and play guitars on her al

Dave Navarro, guitarist Star" producer, stood up to a only female rocker in the like Gilby, volunteered to pl bum.

Born in Johannesburg, S tattooed powerhouse Dila singing at age 7.

Her band performed in fo major clubs in Europe to bec Netherlands' highest paid booked bands.

Before settling in the US tile performer sang titles fo tion pictures and rocked to 100,000 alongside legendar artists at a Belgium music fe

'Very proud'

In her video interview Star's" official website, vealed: "I'm feeling very, ve myself. I'm [also] feeling ex ness because I honestly wan Supernova but I totally their choice. They made choice by picking Lukas... he was the right guy for the p

"I'm not touring with Sup I will have my own solo caree to choose who I want to pla

But can we

LOS ANGELES—A FEDE has barred the new made band that includes M drummer Tommy Lee fro self Supernova because th ready has been claimed known band.

But US District Judge Jo ruled on Wednesday that der does not apply to th work's reality show "Rock nova," which concluded th

In addition to Lee, th

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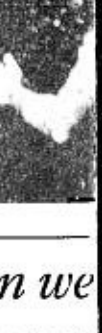


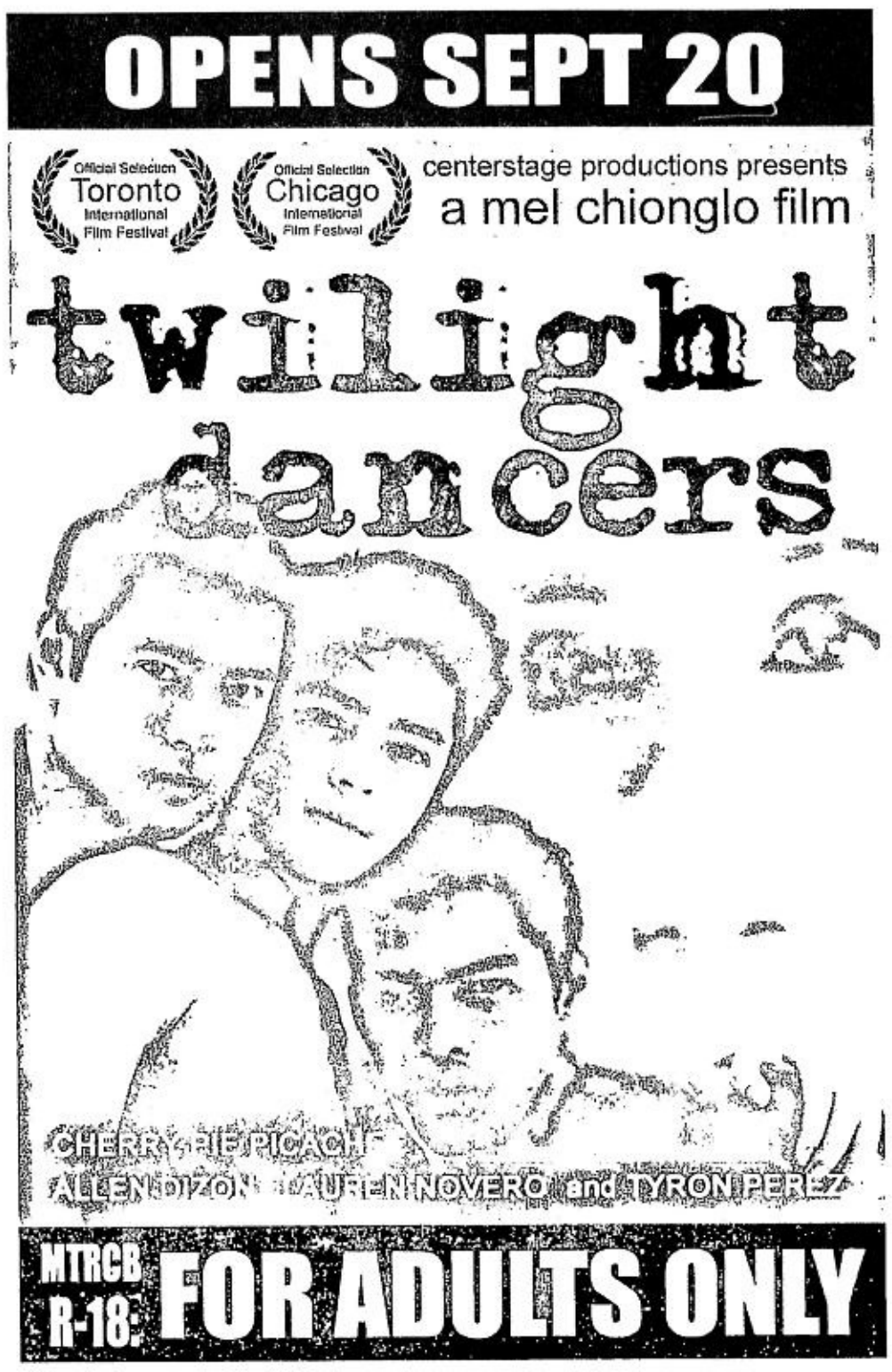
WILMA

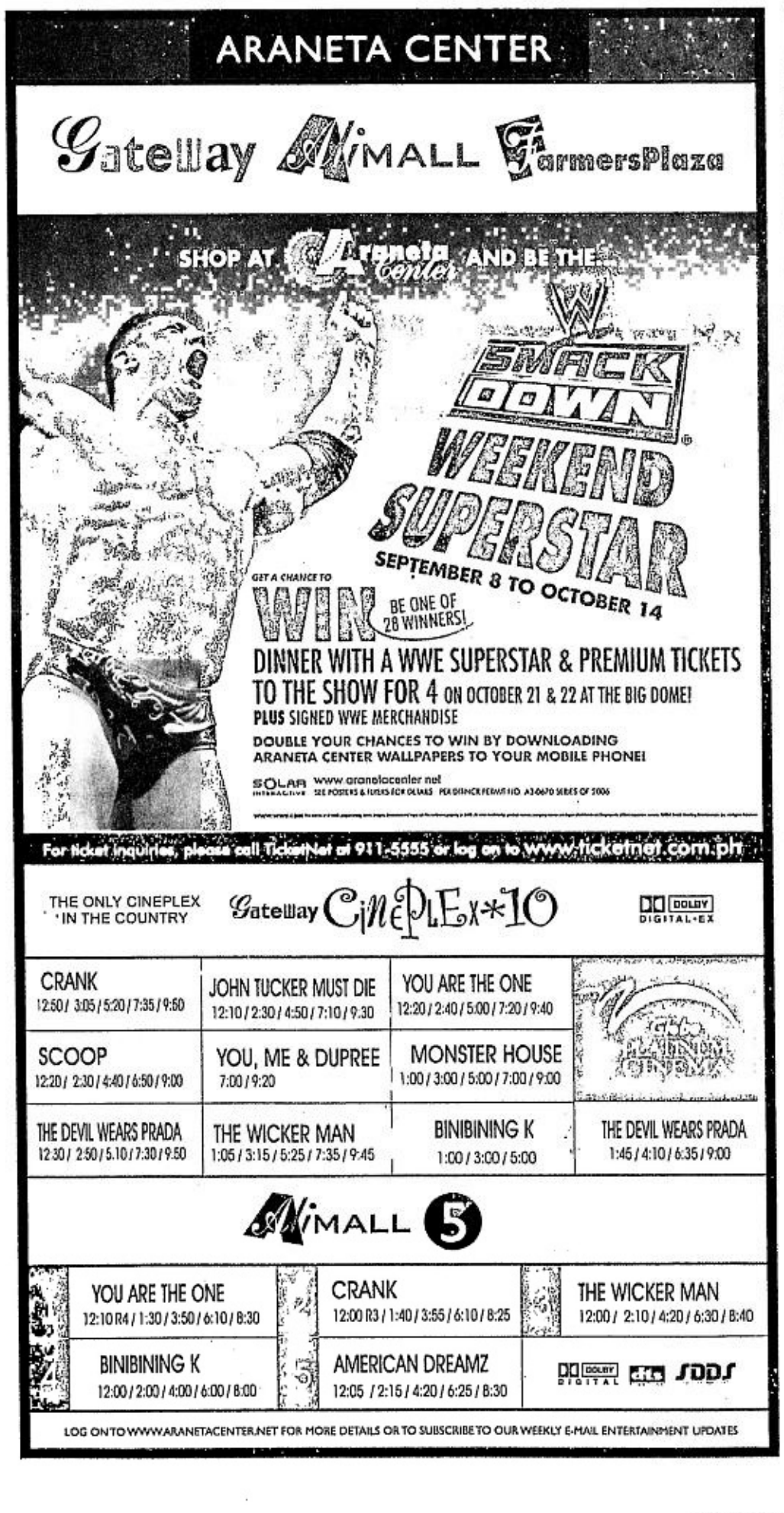
manager, beauty consultant and marketing director of Beverly Hills 6750 Cosmetic Surgery and Skin Institute.

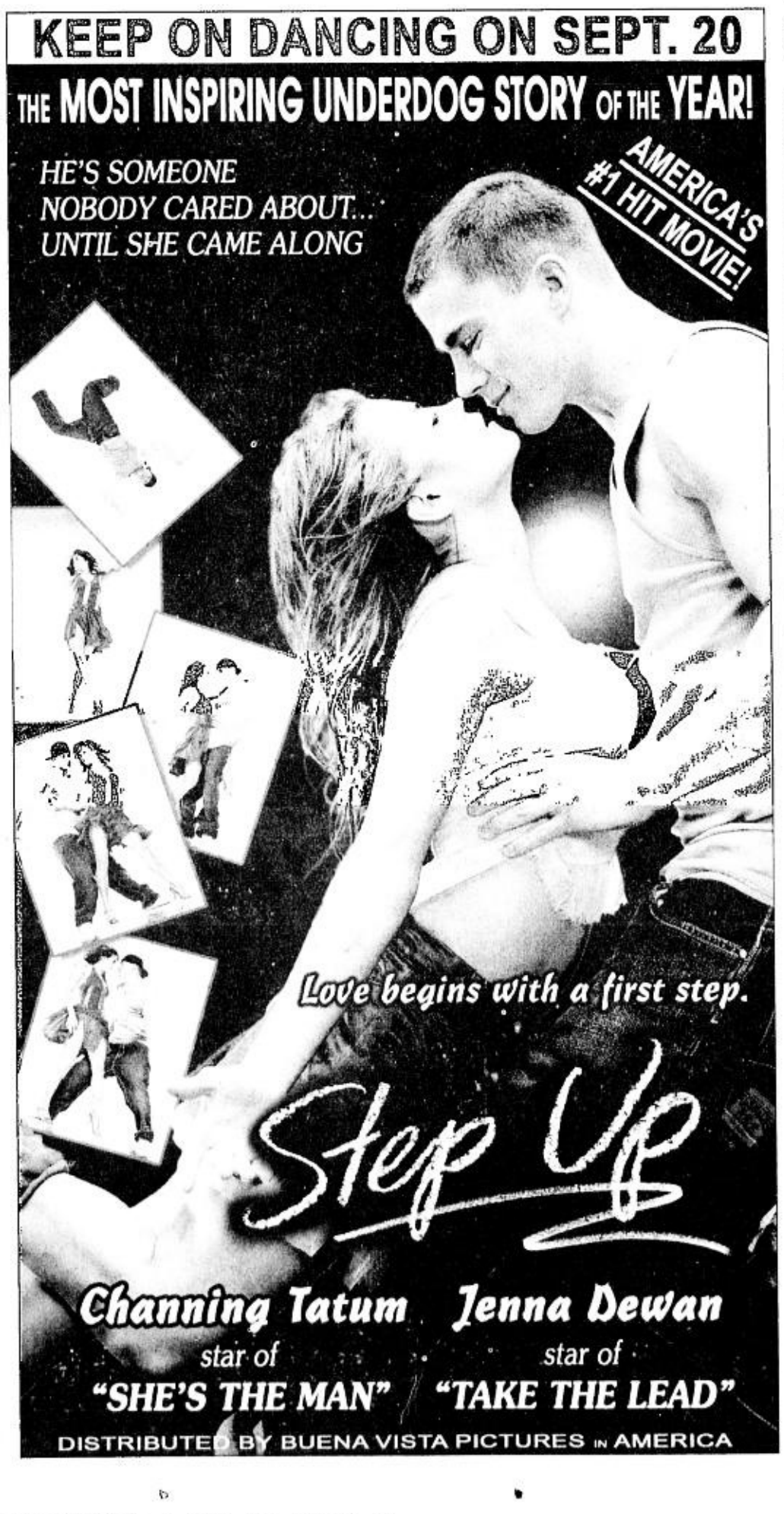
Said Galvante of Calayan and Bunevacz: "They are known in the field of beauty. They know about making other women more beautiful."

Calayan has also had first-h ence with makeovers, beginni self. "Eleven years ago, I had removed surgically," she admi

The show goes beyond van ma, Calayan pointed out.







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ne start, Dilana and
TV GRAB

THE BAND, COMPLETED. (From left), Gilby, Jason, Lukas and Tommy. AP

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From page F1

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who gets to play in my album, so this is way more than I dreamt of."

Unlike Lukas and Dilana, Toby Rand had a weak start on "Rock Star."

The Aussie hunk gained momentum midway but, in the run-up to the finals, showed his charisma could work a crowd and win female fans over.

His mischievous antics on and off-stage included popularizing Aussie catchphrase "evs," meaning "whatever," which he had written using a thick black marker onto his torso and on Magni's shaved head.

Toby also won a Honda SUV for earning the encore for his catchy original, "Throw It Away."

Prior to the show, Toby had written music for and appeared on numerous surf videos and promotional CDs. He fronted Juke Kartel, a Melbourne rock group that opened concert tours for Taste of Chaos and Nickelback.

Farm boy

Despite being the first rocker to get the boot in the finale, Magni holds the distinction of being the only rocker not voted to the Bottom 3 rankings on any elimination night.

The 28-year-old has come a long way from being a farm boy in a small community to becoming one of his country's powerful pop-rock singers.

In fact A Moti Sol, Magni's immensely successful band, produced six albums, two of which went gold; and performed in Denmark, Germany, Norway, Luxemburg and Liverpool.

In an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment prior to the finals, Magni admitted how weird it felt for him to be at the top of the competition. He had been used to landing in the Bottom 3 ranks.

Supernova had criticized him for failing to show he could front a band, as opposed to just being in a band.

Despite his elimination though, Magni remained the amiable rocker he had been all throughout, playing guitar with the now complete Supernova.

THE FINAL 3 TV GRAB

call them 'Supernova'?

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sembled for the series consists of former Metallica bassist Jason Newsted and former Guns N' Roses guitarist Gilby Clarke.

The three musicians, along with CBS and producers of the show, were sued in August for trademark infringement by members of the original Supernova, a California-based band formed in 1989.

"Rock Star: Supernova" averaged 7 million viewers per episode during its summer run *Reuters*

now faces . . .

From page F1

Galvante JESSICA Rodriguez PIE Calayan

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She explained: "Women want to look better. In most cases, looking better improves a woman's life, her career and how she feels about herself. This is more important than any makeover."

"Extreme Makeover" will air Tuesday nights, starting Sept. 19.

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—The opening this week of the animated baseball film "Everyone's Hero" marks the final project—and message—from Christopher and Dana Reeve, who both died during its making. "It has a great message: Never give up," said actor and director Rob Reiner, who voices a talking baseball on the film. *AP*

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Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
"GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU SMILING!"
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Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST

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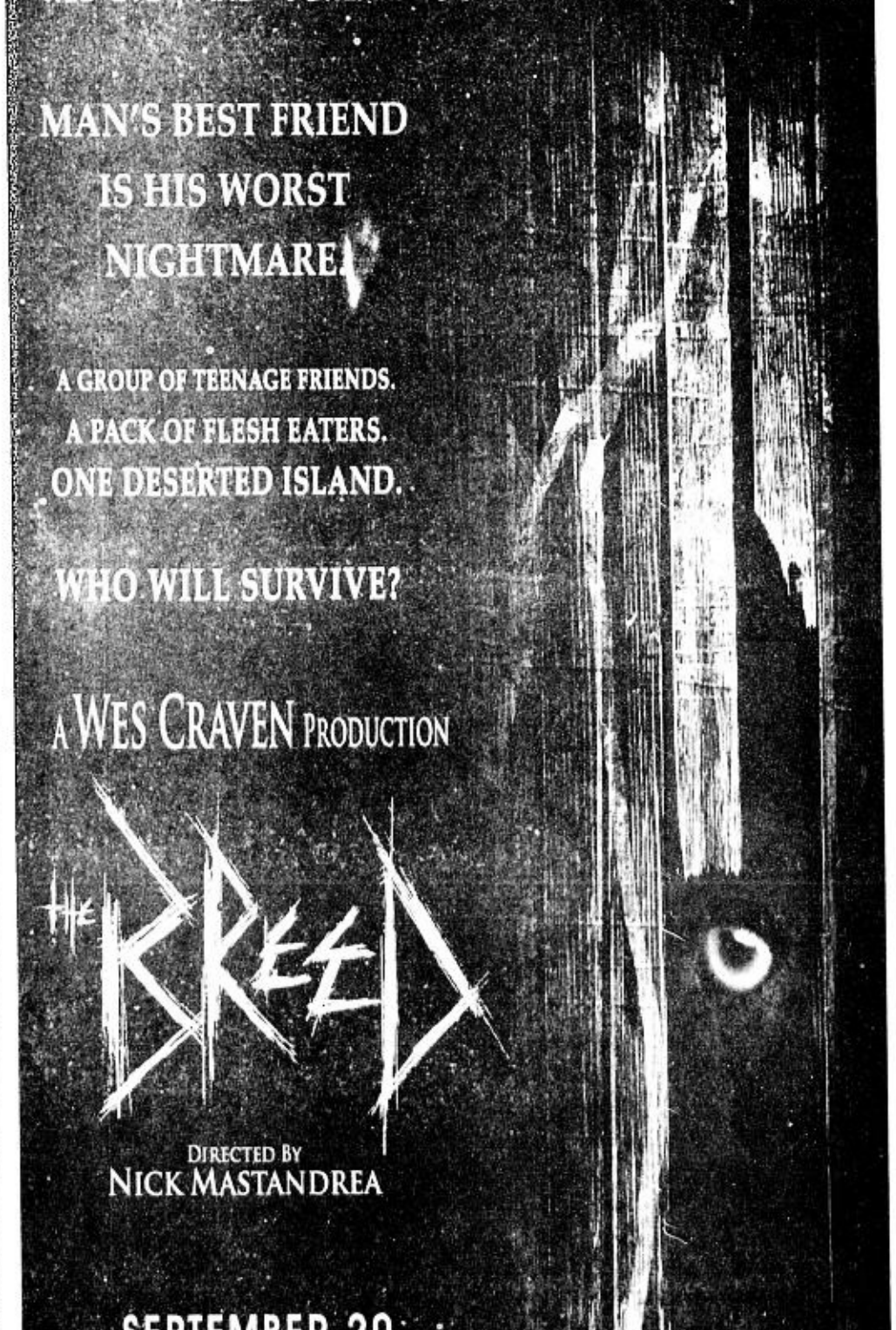

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Maldita, Kapuso

CHERIE Gil

CHERIE GIL IS NOW A CERTIfied Kapuso. After guesting recently in GMA 7's weekly sitcom, "Bahay Mo Ba 'To?", Cherie—the perfect image model for the apparel brand Maldita (seen any of those classy billboards?)—now plays a major role in "Dangal," the newest season of the drama anthology, "Now and Forever." This is her first-ever soap on Channel 7.

GINA Alajar

Gina's new spouse

"I have a new husband," says award-winning actress-director Gina Alajar. The actress spends hours off work with ... not a man but a machine. A laptop, to be exact. "I'm not a techie. I'm just learning to surf the Net, read e-mail, download music and use Adobe Photoshop."

A tip from Mr. C

"Philippine Idol" judge Ryan Cayabyab's tip for finalist Giancarlo Magdangal, whom he considers the most polished all-around performer of the lot: "Smile more and genuinely aspire to be more approachable. This is not just a singing contest. *Palakasan din ito ng* appeal."

What makes Jeff beam

JEFFREY Jeturian

Director Jeffrey Jeturian is grinning from ear to ear these days. Tickets to the Sept. 9 screening of his digital film "Kubrador" at the Varsity Theater in Toronto, Canada, were sold out. Mel Chionglo's "Twilight Dancers" was screened in a packed theater, too. Tickets were priced at $18.50 each.

'Bombshell Unleashed'

Rufa Mae Quinto's concert, "Bombshell Unleased," staged at the Aliw Theater in May, is tonight's feature on GMA 7's Sunday Night Box Office.

"This show is special to me because it was my first major concert. I produced it myself—and it was sold out! People came to see it in spite of the heavy rains." Also because that was the night that Erik Santos, now her boyfriend, "unexpectedly" kissed her on the lips.

The story of this kiss is close to being milked dry; we hope to see it for ourselves so we can put the matter (did he, really?) to rest.

Dragged out

The remaining eight finalists of the QTV 11 reality show "The Final Cut: The Next David's Salon Creative Stylist" were dragged out of their apartment at 4 a.m. by the police. The reason David Charlton and the producers gave was that the finalists had become "over-confident." Huh?

Charlton explains: "We are only on our fourth task, and they're already showing 'attitude.' I cannot tolerate that." If this merely adds to the confusion, catch the next episode, Saturdays, 11 p.m.

Clooney's cause

UNITED NATIONS—George Clooney and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel told the UN Security Council on Thursday the world would be blamed for another Rwanda if atrocities were not halted in Sudan's Darfur region.

GEORGE Clooney

"In many ways it is unfair but it is nevertheless true that this genocide will be on your watch. How you deal with it will be your legacy," Clooney said. "Your Rwanda, Your Cambodia, your Auschwitz." *Reuters*

Bye to all that

LOS ANGELES — For 14 years, Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown publicly professed their love for one another. On Friday, Houston filed papers in Orange County Superior Court on Friday requesting a legal separation from Brown because of irreconcilable differences. *AP*

Opps, she did it again

LOS ANGELES—Britney Spears has another baby to drive around with. She gave birth to a second boy this week, just two days before her first child is to turn a year old.

Spears, 24, married to dancer Kevin Federline, 28, was in the news earlier this year for having her firstborn, Sean Preston, sit in her lap while she drove her car. *AFP*

Fans' choice

NEW YORK—Grammy Award-winning singer John Legend will let his fans play disc-jockey by allowing them to choose which song from his upcoming album to release to radio.

JOHN Legend

The management-consultant-turned-R&B-soloist said he was curious to know which of the two tracks — "Show Me" and "Heaven Only Knows" — fans will pick. "At the end of the day," he said, "you get to rely on your taste and your instinct the most, but it's nice to know what the fans really like." *Reuters*

Two diff'rent things

EVA Longoria

"The Closer" star Kyra Sedgwick, wife of actor Kevin Bacon speaking at New York's Fashion Week, on being a mother: "I wake up early with the kids now, but to look good and wake up early are two totally different things." *Reuters*

Leaving her fourth

NEW YORK—Supermodel Christie Brinkley began divorce proceedings against her fourth husband, architect Peter Cook, his attorney said on Thursday.

CHRISTIE Brinkley

Brinkley, 52, was previously married to artist Jean-Francois Allaux, singer Billy Joel and real estate developer Richard Taubman. *Reuters*

Will never leave

PASADENA, California—Eva Longoria says she's done with television after "Desperate Housewives" ends.

The 31-year-old actress said she loves the medium of television and the routine it provides, but that "Housewives" will be her last series. "I would never leave 'Desperate Housewives,'" Longoria told The Associated Press. "But I will never do another TV show after 'Desperate Housewives.' No."

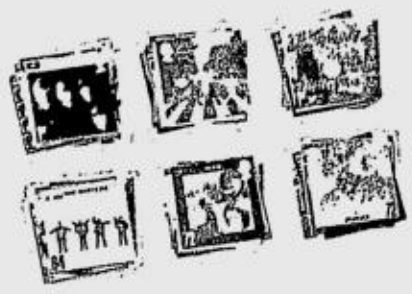
The third season of the hit series starts Sept. 24.

ANNA Nicole Smith with her son Daniel in 2004 REUTERS

Birth, death

LOS ANGELES—Former Playboy Playmate Anna Nicole Smith, whose marriage to an 89-year-old wheelchair-bound billionaire when she was 26 made headlines around the world, lost her 20-year-old son just days after welcoming a healthy baby girl, her website said Monday.

Her son Daniel Smith, who had flown to the Bahamas to visit his mother and new sister, died suddenly early Sunday, a statement on the website said. "We have yet to learn the cause of death but do not believe that drugs or alcohol were a factor," the statement said. *AFP*



Beatles stamps

LONDON—The Beatles are to appear on a set of British stamps in January, the Royal Mail announced Tuesday. The stamps will feature the legendary 1960s pop band's album covers. A Royal Mail spokesman said the special issues "promise to be a big hit with fans." *AFP*

E-mail: pr_ent .com.ph
dback: (Smart)

KATE Winslet, Patrick Wilson and the two young stars of "Little Children."

US actor remembers Balic-Balic

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

TORONTO, ONTARIO—WE CONTINUE our coverage of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). We saw **Forest Whitaker** play the late Ugandan dictator **Idi Amin** in "The Last King of Scotland," a performance sure to make him a strong contender for the Best Actor plum in the coming awards season.

During our interview, Forest astounded us by reminiscing about staying in a house in, of all places, Balic-Balic, when he was in the Philippines for the shoot of **Oliver Stone**'s "Platoon." Forest's vivid recollection—of being in a Manila neighborhood was easily one of the highlights of our Toronto 2006 diary.

Big letdown

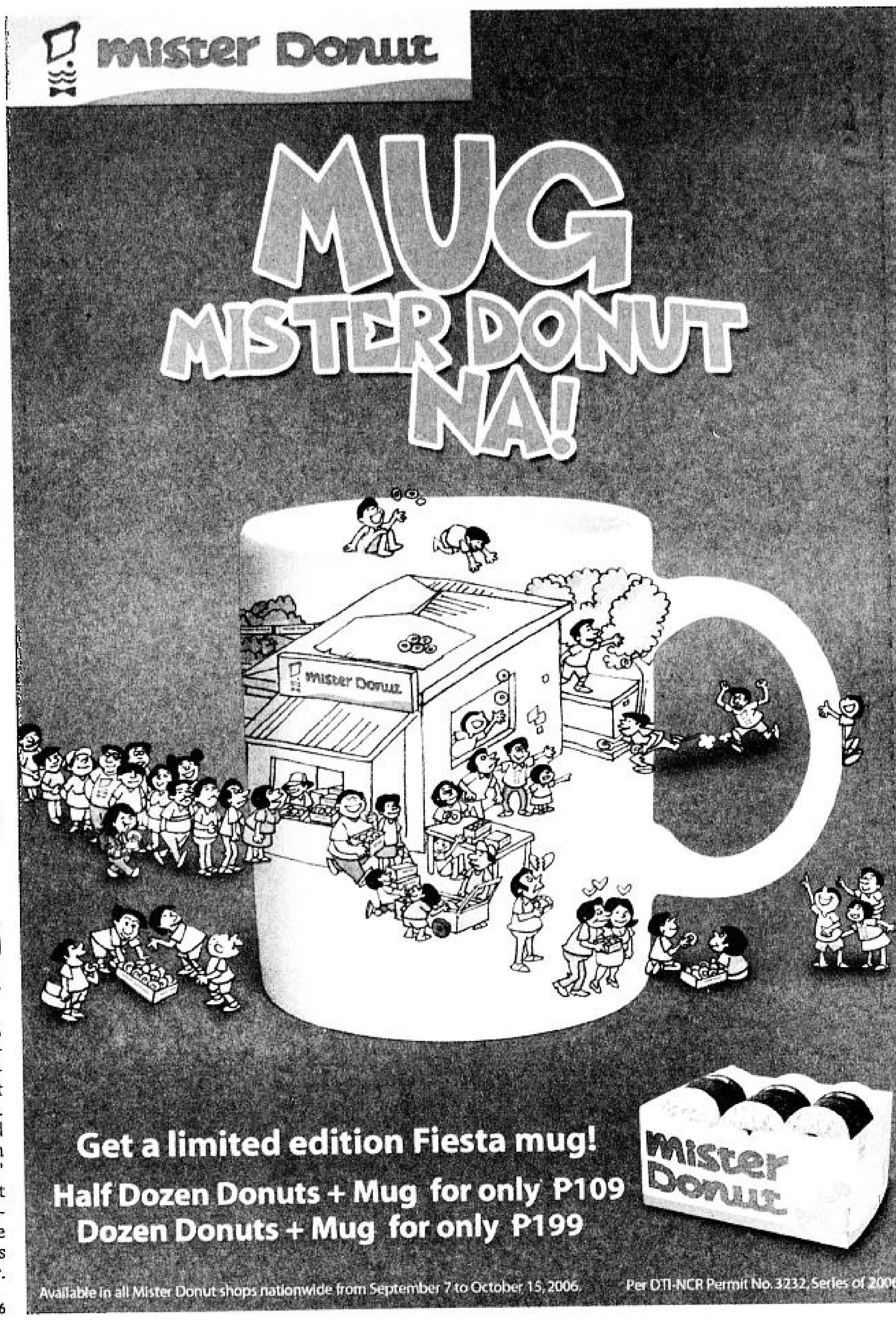
Let's share our diary, though, in chronological order. Sunday last week, the cancellation of our interview with the great actor **Peter O'Toole** for his entry, "Venus," was a letdown.

Peter, who gives an achingly tender performance at 74—as an octogenarian who makes a pass at a twentysomething girl—was packed and ready to fly to Toronto when he was downed by gastric infection, according to his director, **Roger Mitchell** ("Notting Hill").

The object of affection of Peter's character, newcomer **Jodie Whittaker**, held her own opposite the legendary star of "Lawrence of Arabia." She was poised and confident in her first press con with us on a gray weekend morning. Asked about some of her scenes which involved nudity, Jodie replied, "I was never in a situation during the filming where I was uncomfortable."

Next in our seemingly endless interviews at the Four Seasons (which barricaded its driveway to control fans who flocked everyday to see Hollywood stars here for the TIFF) was "Stranger Than Fiction" director Marc Forster.

US ACTOR/ G6



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(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE / DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE / MONSTER HOUSE
3 SCOOP
4 CRANK

stARmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 BINIBINING K
4 THE WICKER MAN
5 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

metropolis star cinema
www.ckittheatre.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 6504288, 6433994
1 OBSESSION
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 RESERVED
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 STAY ALIVE
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 LITTLE MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TAMARA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BINIBINING K
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600 3025
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 THE WICKER MAN
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE / YOU ME & DUPREE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
5 SCOOP
6 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 CRANK
8 BINIBINING K
9 ETERNITY / PENGUIN-PENGUIN
10 YOU ARE THE ONE

Blue Wave MANJUNION
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 BINIBINING K
3 JON TUCKER MUST DIE
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 BINIBINING K
4 SCOOP
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 WOLF CREEK
4 RESERVED

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 THE NUN
2 STORMBREAKER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 REPPER LETTER FROM HELL
2 NIGHT JOB
3 BABY DOLL
4 KUBRADOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 NAUBANG HAYOP
3 BINIBINING K
4 WILD SIDE
5 MIAMI VICE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 MIAMI VICE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 LITTLE MAN
2 KRISELDA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 — WICKER MAN / DEVIL WEARS PRADA — 10:50, 1:10, 3:25 // 6:20, 8:50 — PG-13
CINEMA 2 — THE WICKER MAN — 10:50, 1:10, 3:30 // 5:50, 8:10, 10:25 — PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a diversitainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 — CRANK — 11:00, 1:20, 3:40 // 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 — R-13
CINEMA 4 — SCOOP — 11:00, 1:15, 3:35 // 5:55, 8:15, 10:35 — PG13
CINEMA 5 — JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE — 10:40, 1:00, 3:20 // 5:40, 8:00, 10:25 — PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE...FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

SEPT. 15 & 16, 2006	ERIK SANTOS & RUFFA MAE QUINTO	8:00PM
OCT. 07, 2006	AKAFELLAS	8:30 PM

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EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO .. CLASSICO	8:00PM
SEPT. 14,21, 28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

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Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
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For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE — 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40 — PG-13	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA — 11:00
MONSTER HOUSE — 1:55, 4:10, 6:25 — G	YOU, ME & DUPREE — 8:35, 11:00 — PG-13
SCOOP — 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 — PG-13	
CRANK — 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 — R-13	

MTRCB RATING PG-13 — Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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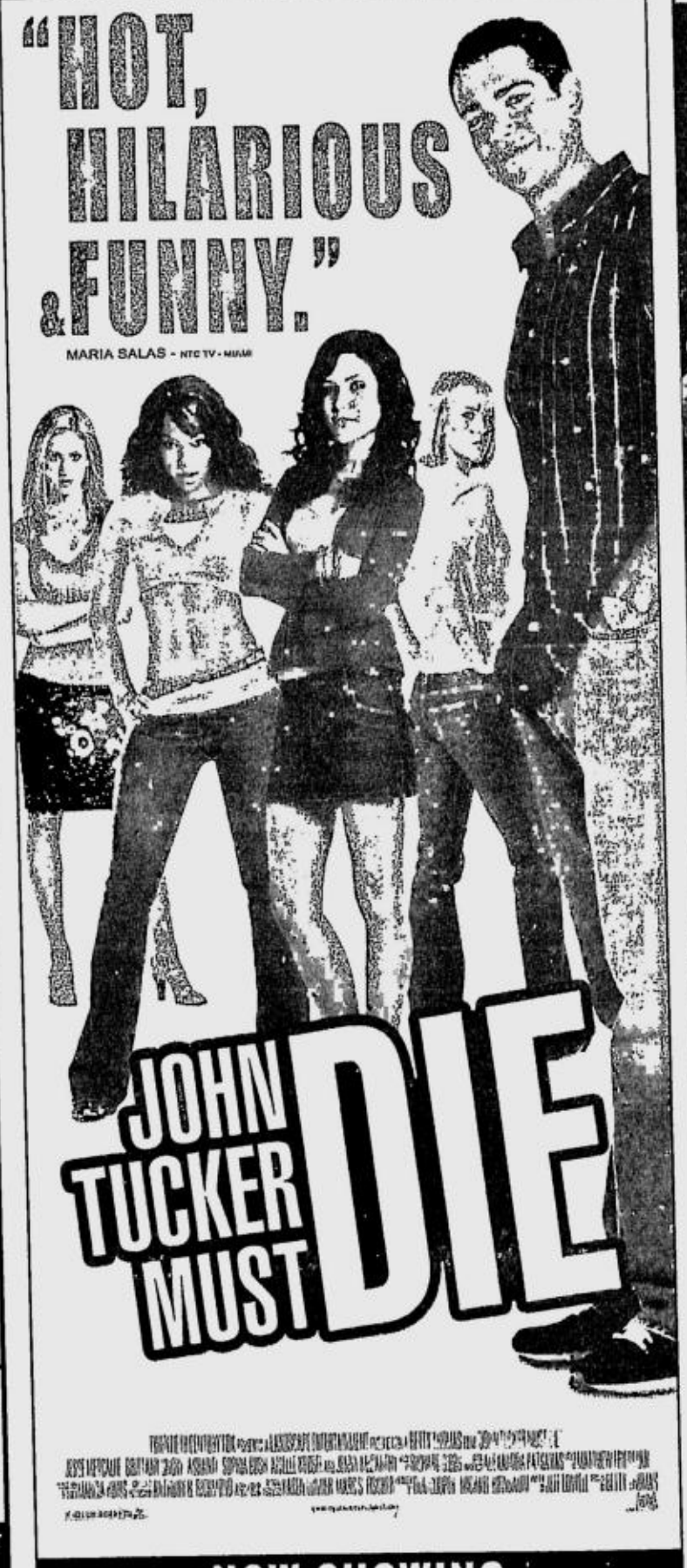
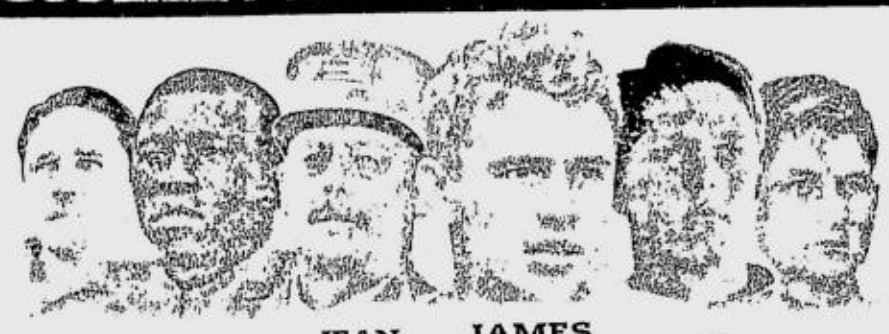


JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

NOW SHOWING

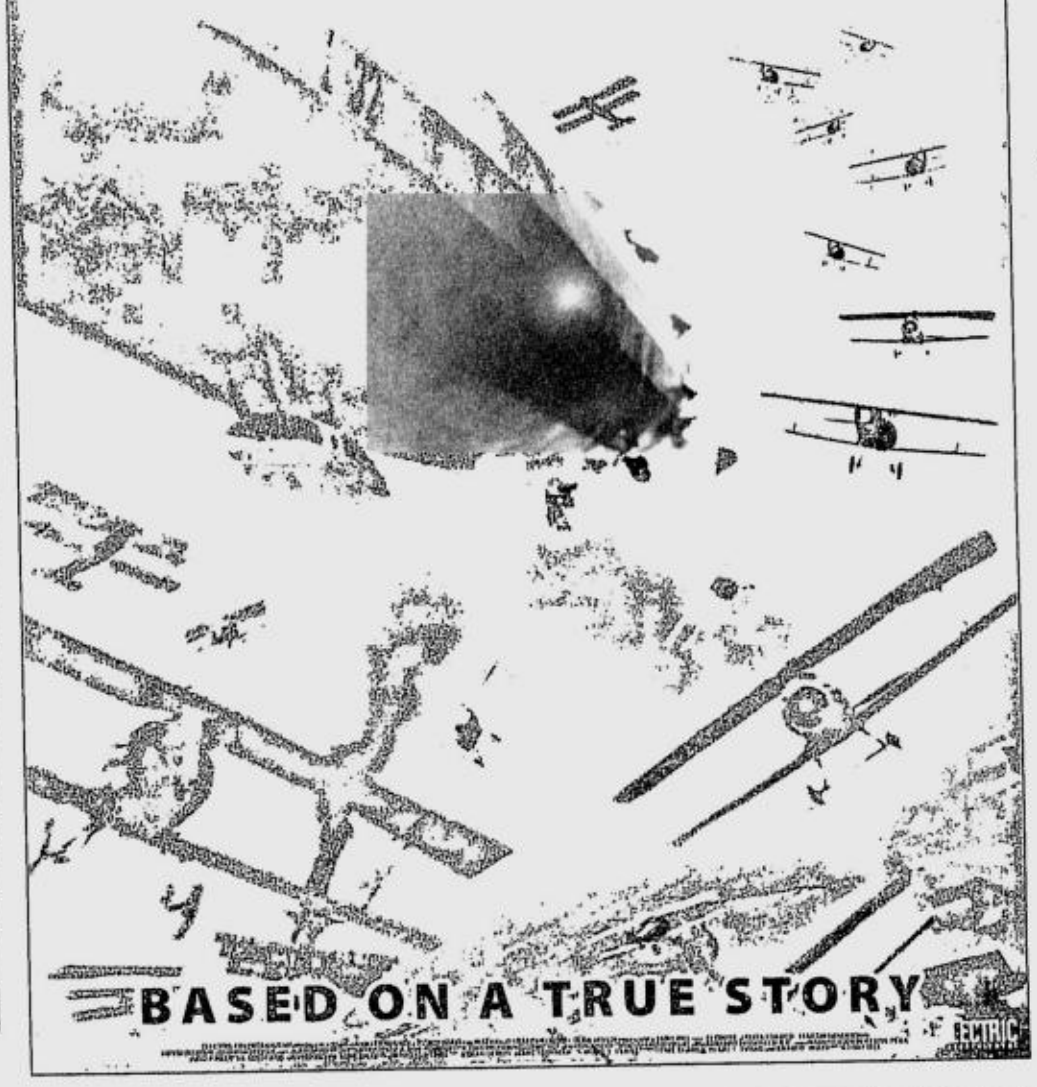
COMING SOON
FROM DEAN DEVLIN, THE PRODUCER OF "GODZILLA" AND "INDEPENDENCE DAY"



MARTIN HENDERSON — ABDUL SALIS — JEAN RENO — JAMES FRANCO — DAVID ELLISON — PHILIP WINCHESTER

FLYBOYS

WHEN THE WORLD FIRST WENT TO WAR
THEY WERE THE FIRST TO FLY
THEIR COURAGE INSPIRED THE ENTIRE FREE WORLD



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DOA
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE TRANSPORTER"

'Big Time' director goes... well, big time

MARIO CORNEJO and Monster Jimenez at Cinemalaya awards last year. RAFFY LERMA

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Cinemalaya alumnus works with Star Cinema

FILMMAKER MARIO CORNEJO, who co-wrote and co-produced the Cinemalaya entry "Big Time" with Monster Jimenez, is crossing over to the mainstream.

The indie filmmaker has been tapped by Star Cinema to meg the youth flick "First Day High," top-billed by Geoff Eigenmann, Kim Chiu, Gerald Anderson, Jason Abalos and Maja Salvador.

That's not to say he's turning his back on the indie scene.

He tells INQUIRER Entertainment that he has kept in touch with his "Big Time" peers and is very active in the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines.

Seems he's bringing his gung-ho/gonzo filmmaking style to the mainstream. (His "passion" has yielded results. Apart from winning Best Screenplay and Sound at the Cinemalaya, "Big Time" was nominated for eight Urian awards.)

TAKE FIVE

Lately, he's been keeping 20-hour work days.

"It's been crazy; I haven't had a free moment to myself," he says. And he's just turning 31 on Sept. 27, when "First Day" opens.

BIG TIME/ G4

LET YOUR SIGNATURE SPEAK.
FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER

The drinking water of Metro Manila comes from La Mesa Dam. The dam is now in danger of being contaminated. A proposed housing site which is 24 meters above the water level poses a serious threat to 12 million people.

Based on a scientific study, garbage, pesticides and waste from leaking septic tanks can flow into the dam. The pollutants can be carried by floods or can seep through the ground. According to the WHO, 3.4 million people die around the world each year because of lack of access to clean drinking water. It is the world's no.1 cause of disease and death.

One Water: Tinig para sa Tubig is a Bantay Kalikasan campaign to protect La Mesa Dam. We have reached almost half our target of 5 million signatures. To date, more than 2 million people have signed the petition to make La Mesa a protected area. This would not only help save the remaining water reservoir in Metro Manila but also the lives of 12 million Metro Manila residents.

ONE WATER
TINIG PARA SA TUBIG
AGOS
TUBIG PARA SA BUHAY

An ALL-STAR CAST CONCERT for La Mesa featuring top ABS-CBN stars and the country's finest performers

Aegis, Aaron Agassi, Carlos Agassi, Barbie Almalbis, Bea Alonzo, Isay Alvarez, Gerald Anderson, Anime, John Arcilla, Joey Ayala, Bamboo, Bayang Barrios, Victor Basa, Joem Bascon, Christian Bautista, Noel Cabangon, Nicco Cesar, Kim Chiu, Cookie Chua, Sam Concepcion, John Lloyd Cruz, Rayver Cruz, Maoui David, the Dawn, AJ Dee, Frenchie Dy, FEU Dance Troop, Sheila Francisco, Full Circle, Kris Lawrence, Aldred Gatchalian, Audie Gemora, G-Force Dancers, Nikki Gil, Rachel Ann Go, Toni Gonzaga, Gary Granada, Chris Gutierrez, Hannah of Session Road, Kristine Hermosa, Nesh Janiola, Kamikazee, John Lapuz, Ayen Laurel, Franco Laurel, Limited Boys, Lougee of Mojofly, Jed Maddela, Shaina Magdayao, Zanjoe Marudo, Hazel Ann Mendoza, Michael Angelo, Sam Milby, Valeen Montenegro, Diether Ocampo, Carlo Orosa, Angelica Panganiban, Sandara Park, Piolo Pascual, Angelo Patrimonio, John Prats, AJ Perez, Pido, Sheryn Regis, Rafael Rosel, Jerome Sala, Salbakuta, Maja Salvador, Erik Santos, Paolo Santos, Aiza Seguerra, Robert Sena, Star Magic Artists, Top Suzara, Nene Tamayo, UP Dance Troop, Iya Villania, Aaron Villaflor

ABS-CBN
TONIGHT
after Pinoy Dream Academy
ABS-CBN BANTAY KALIKASAN

JOIN THE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN TO DECLARE LA MESA WATERSHED A PROTECTED AREA.

By signing the petition below you are opposing the privatization of the 59-hectare portion of the La Mesa Reservoir wherein a housing project will be built, endangering the drinking water of 12 million Metro Manila residents.
Write your name, address and contact no. and send this sheet to any David Salon outlets, JRS Express outlets nationwide, Bayad Centers in Metro Manila or fax this sheet to Bantay Kalikasan at 412-1382 or 410-9670.

NAME / ADDRESS / CONTACT NO.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

NAME / ADDRESS / CONTACT NO.

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

You can also send your "signature" through text. <LM Protect Name, Address 2366> for Globe and Sun • 231 for Smart, Talk 'n Text and Addict Mobile

You may also sign on-line by visiting www.lamesaecopark.com

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • THX
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

3 SCOOP
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

4 CRANK
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

5 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 VICTORY
2:00 4:00 6:00

7 BINIBINING K
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 THE WICKER MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 MONSTER HOUSE
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CRANK
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE 11:40 1:40 3:40
THE WICKER MAN 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 MONSTER HOUSE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

4 YOU ARE THE ONE
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 BINIBINING K
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

7 SCOOP
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 470-5141 / 982-8103 / 682-9189

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

3 THE WICKER MAN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

4 SCOOP
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

6 CRANK
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 MONSTER HOUSE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00

8 RESERVE

NOVALICHES 936-2931 / 935-2224-30

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5376

1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STAY ALIVE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

1 MIAMI VICE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 BINIBINING K

DASMARIÑAS (046) 862-2125 (046) 416-4932 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

1 CRANK
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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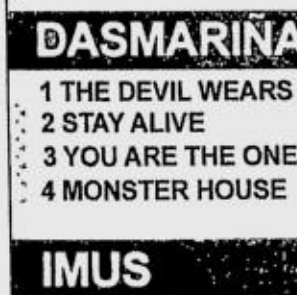
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CRANK
3 BINIBINING K
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKE SON A PLANE
6 CRANK

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 KISS KISS BANG BANG
5 MIAMI VICE
6 MORTUARY

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 MORTUARY



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SM SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR

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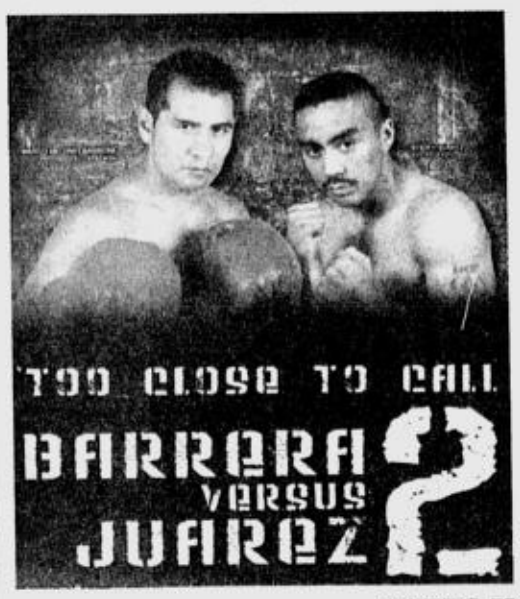

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ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
6:30PM Admission Price- P300
SUPERMAN RETURNS
8:30PM Admission Price- P350
CRANK
DEVIL WEARS PRADA/
WICKER MAN
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
SCOOP
MONSTER HOUSE/
PENGUIN, PENGUIN
YOU, ME AND DUPRE
PREMIERE CINEMA
YOU ARE THE ONE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
CRANK
CINEMA 1
SCOOP
CINEMA 2
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
BARRERA, JUAREZ FIGHT
6 WICKER MAN
7 CRANK
8 SCOOP
9 SNAKES ON A PLANE
10 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
11 MONSTER HOUSE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 SCOOP
6 WICKER MAN
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 ETERNITY
9 CRANK
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 BINIBINING K

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 ETERNITY
7 CRANK
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
11 BINIBINING K
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 CRANK
2 WICKER MAN
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 BINIBINING K
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 ETERNITY
9 LITTLE MAN
10 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
1 WICKER MAN
2 CRANK
3 BINIBINING K
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 CRANK
2 SCOOP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 WICKER MAN
6 ETERNITY
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 BINIBINING K

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 SCOOP
3 WICKER MAN
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 CRANK
7 BINIBINING K
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 WICKER MAN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

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2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 WICKER MAN

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 BINIBINING K
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 CRANK
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 ETERNITY
8 MONSTER HOUSE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 BINIBINING K
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 CRANK
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 BINIBINING K
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 BINIBINING K
4 CRANK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 BINIBINING K
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CRANK
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
5 BINIBINING K
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 STAY ALIVE
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 CRANK
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 STORMBREAKER
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

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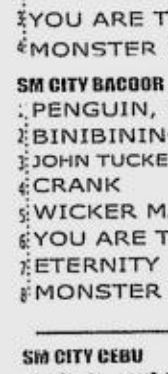
movietime PROMO



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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

'Big Time' director goes ...

From page G3

What was it like making your first mainstream film?

Extremely exciting.

How different was it from the "Big Time" experience?

At times the difference felt like night and day. First off, I'd never worked with a studio before. Also, I was directing somebody else's script (by Jade Castro). There are countless differences. But at the very heart, it's all filmmaking, whether indie or studio.

What was it like being nominated at the Urian for "Big Time"?

I couldn't believe it. We made that movie hoping to make five people laugh. For it to be recognized in such a big way was stunning.

What are your realizations, now that you've done an indie and a commercial movie?

That the budget of the movie matters, but not as much as you'd think. Much more important is passion for your work and your art.

What did you miss and not miss about the indie scene?

I actually don't miss the indie scene because I feel I'm still in it. I attend our coop meetings when I have time, and I'm involved in a few more indie productions, as well as planning my next indie.

Not that independent cinema is a genre per se, but I don't think any studio would want to back my next project. It's pretty weird.

What did you enjoy about the studio scene?

I enjoyed not having to drive my actors home after shoots, which I sometimes had to do in my independent film work.

What did you not enjoy about the studio scene?

I kinda missed driving my actors home after shoots, which I sometimes had to do in my independent film work.

What was it like working with the teen stars of Star Cinema?

I loved it, but it made me feel old!

What are your future projects?

I have a lot that I want to do. I'm helping produce a documentary for my partner, Monster Jimenez. We should be in full production soon. Aside from that, I'm writing a small, weird family movie. I have a weird fantasy movie I want to do, as well as a weird love story.

ROUNDUP

'The Triangle'

STAR Movies airs the thrilling conclusion of "The Triangle," the limited series on the mysteries surrounding the Bermuda Triangle.

For generations, scores of ships, planes and people have been lost under strange circumstances in this area of the Atlantic Ocean just off the coast of Florida.

As the team continues to investigate the Triangle, their ultimate fate hangs in the balance.

The series airs today, 2:15 p.m.; tomorrow, 10:30 a.m.; Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.; and Sept. 21, 11 p.m.

'DPAs' on 'Probe'

"PROBE" tells the story of Cebu 13—13 labor organizers executed in a span of a few months in 1985 after being suspected of being deep penetration agents (DPAs) by the New People's Army.

The program joins the journey of Cion and Estelita, two sisters in search of Luz, their sister who has been missing for 20 years.

With the help of nongovernment organization Path, the two sisters fly to Cebu to recover the remains of Luz and her husband Lando. A team of forensic anthropologists discovers what could have happened in the final moments in the couple's lives.

The program airs Sept. 20, 11 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

'Kinky Boots'

"THE ADVENTURES of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" meets "The Full Monty" in Touchstone Pictures' "Kinky Boots," an uplifting British comedy about two outcast dreamers who finally figure out how to stand up for themselves ... in thigh-high leather stilettos!

The film will be shown exclusively at the Ayala Malls Cinemas (Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3) starting Sept. 20.

Japanese films

THE ONGOING "Eiga Sai: Japanese Contemporary Films" presents Toshiaki Toyoda's "Nine Souls," about a convict in an isolated prison who stumbles upon a hole on the floor where nine men break out.

Each of the convicts is carrying a baggage of sad memories. The men take a van from someone they know and head for a primary school near Mt. Fuji to pick up some hidden loot, but when they get to the school, all they find is a small glass key in a time capsule.

The film screens at 2 p.m., Sept. 19 at the Shangri-La Plaza. Call 8116155 to 58 for the complete schedule.

'Amazing Race 10'

AFTER winning the Emmy for "Best Reality-Competition Television Program" for the fourth consecutive year, "The Amazing Race" returns with another season on AXN starting tomorrow at 8:30 p.m., with subsequent episodes every Monday at 9 p.m.

In Season 10 of this travel and adventure race, 12 brand new teams of two will be dashing around the world in their quest for the grand prize money of $1 million.

The new season will have never-before-seen diversity of teams, a one-legged race, family feuds and sibling showdowns, couples struggling towards the finish line, beauties and brawn, the returning Philiminator, exotic locations, tougher challenges and culture shock.

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1 EIGA SAI (JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL)
KISHIWADA BAD BOYS (R-18) 2:00PM
WOMEN IN MIRROR (PG-13) 5:00PM
DORA-HEITA (R-13) 8:00PM

2 SCOOP
MTRCB PG-13
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

3 MONSTER HOUSE
MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:15, 5:30
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13 7:30, 10:00

4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
MTRCB: PG-13
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
YOU, ME AND DUPREE / CRANK
MTRCB PG-13 / MTRCB R-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00 / 7:20, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4 P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
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Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A2-0693, Series of 2006

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PG-13

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UNIVERSAL

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AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CRANK	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE WICKER MAN	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SCOOP		2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE				
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CRANK GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS		2 SCOOP	3 CRANK	4 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	5 YOU, ME & DUPREE	
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 CRANK		2 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	

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Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm; Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm; Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324; Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
39th BPI Installment Madness August 30 to September 17, 2006	Anson's Emporium September 10 to 24, 2006
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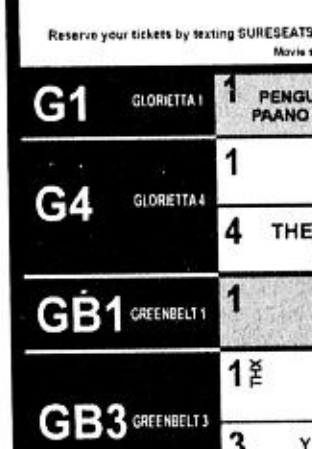
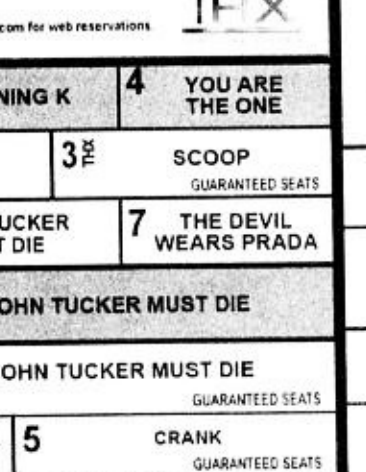
Kinky Boots



"Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert Meets The Full Monty."
— The Observer

Inspiration comes from all walks of life.



(OPENING NIGHT - 2006 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL)

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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(see leaflets and posters for details)

MARKET! MARKET!

US actor remembers Balic-Balic

From page G1

The filmmaker, who directed **Halle Berry** in her Oscar-winning performance in "Monster's Ball," elicited a subtly effective portrayal from comedian **Will Ferrell** as a fiction novel character who has a chance to write a sad or happy ending for himself.

'Copying Beethoven'

In "Copying Beethoven," **Diane Kruger** faced the same challenge as Jodie's. While she has more experience than Jodie, Diane is an acting neophyte compared to acclaimed actor **Ed Harris** ("Pollock," "A History of Violence") who plays Beethoven. "Ed is a perfectionist so I felt I had to step up," said the German native and former model.

Wearing an exquisite Chanel dress, one of the best dressed actresses at the TIFF revealed she had worried that Ed would be very much in character on the set as the tortured genius who brought us the "Ninth Symphony."

"I was afraid he would be horrible but he was not," said Diane. "He just didn't come out very much."

Then we all proceeded to an early evening reception for "Copying Beethoven" where, lo and behold, Diane somehow managed to find time to change into another knockout Chanel outfit. Well, it was fitting—the cocktails, also graced by the film's director, Agnieska Holland, was held at the Chanel boutique on trendy Bloor Street.

We had barely sipped our favorite chardonnay before it was time to leave for the reception for "All the King's Men" at the huge, art-filled home of Canada's power couple, **Gerald Schwartz** and **Heather Reisman**. We saw one of the film's stars, **Sean Penn**, by the pool, but he left early for the red carpet interviews and gala screening at the Roy Thomson Hall.

Celebrity home

Two maids flashed the sweetest smiles at us—we should have talked to them but we were suddenly bashful. We found out later that they were friends and neighbors of several Toronto friends. **Catherine Zeta-Jones, Michael Douglas** and other celebrities reportedly stay in this striking modern home whenever they are in Toronto. Ah, the stories these *kababayans* of ours must be privy to!

Off we went to the gala screening of "All the King's Men," director **Steven Zaillian**'s remake of a 1949 film also based on **Robert Penn Warren**'s novel. The movie also stars **Jude Law, Kate Winslet, Anthony Hopkins, James Gandolfini, Mark Ruffalo** and **Patricia Clarkson**.

It was almost midnight when we stepped out of the Royal Thomson Hall but we had one more important event to attend—the 85th birthday dinner for our aunt, **Dorothea Viado**. She and our patriotically named cousins, **Sinagtala, Diwata** and **Dalisay**, valiantly stayed up late to wait for us. One of these sisters' husbands, **Nonong Acedillo**, who appears in Hollywood movies in Toronto (this city is called Hollywood North), cooked a gourmet lamb dish on the spot for us at that bewitching hour!

We struggled out of our bed Monday morning to make it in time for our group's press cons with Patrick Wilson, Kate Winslet and director **Todd Field** of the excellent drama "Little Children" and Patricia Clarkson of "All the King's Men."

While Patrick has done "The Full Monty" in that musical-turned-movie and "Angels in America," his love scenes with Kate in the nude in "Little Children" were a first for him. "It wasn't a big deal," the "Phantom of the Opera" star with all-American good looks said.

FOREST Whitaker as Uganda dictator Idi Amin

Well, it probably helped that Todd sent the crew away for two days and he himself operated the camera in a house where Patrick and Kate enacted the trysts of their characters, two suburban figures who have an affair.

Au naturel

Kate, a wonderful interview subject—candid, natural and with a Brit's self-deprecating sense of humor—said of appearing au naturel: "I have stretch marks. My character is a mother so I was comfortable that I did not have a perfect model's body. I wouldn't want to look like I'm not eating."

No wonder Patricia Clarkson is always cast in these films set in the 1940s and 1950s, from "All the King's Men," George Clooney's "Good Night, and Good Luck," "Far From Heaven" (Hollywood's version of "Tubog Sa Ginto"?) to "The Untouchables." In person, Patricia's voice and laughter are smokier, her long blonde hair at par with that of 1940s "it" girl Veronica Lake's—she oozes with old Hollywood glamour.

Patricia admitted that **Meryl Streep** was originally being bruited about for the part in "All the King's Men." "Obviously, that didn't work out and they thought about me," she said.

In the evening, **Forest Whitaker** and **James McAvoy** (Mr. Tumnus the Faun in "The Chronicles of Narnia") kept us riveted in their fictional story of real-life dictator Idi Amin, "The Last King of Scotland," an adaptation of **Giles Foden**'s novel of the same title (it is one of Amin's egoistic names for himself). Adroitly mixing fact and fiction, "Last King" invents a Scottish physician (James) who flies to Uganda and through whose eyes we see the growing reign of terror under Amin's regime.

Kerry Washington, memorable as **Ray Charles**' wife in the Oscar-winning "Ray," plays one of Amin's many wives who has an affair with James' character. Since "Chronicles" had not been released when they did this film in Uganda, lovely Kerry guffawed as she talked about her passionate scenes with James: "It helped that I have not seen him as the faun! Although he was cute as the faun."

When the Scottish actor blurted "I'm f- - - - d" while answering a question, he immediately said, "Excuse me." "It's okay—I'm French," quipped our colleague who asked the question. James laughed so hard over that one. Incidentally, he told us that he is not in the sequel to "Chronicles of Narnia." But the good reviews he'll get in "The Last King of Scotland" will boost his career.

Close to home

Finally, we had Forest Whitaker, a mild-mannered, soft-spoken man who, in "The Last King of Scotland," is terrifying as the despot who died in exile in Saudi Arabia in 2003. When we said the movie reminded us of the late Philippine President **Ferdinand Marcos**' martial law regime, Forest unexpectedly answered that yes, some scenes reminded him, too, of the Philippines. He explained that he had just arrived in the Philippines to do "Platoon" at the height of the People Power revolution that brought down Marcos' rule.

"I arrived on the day **Cory Aquino** came to power. I saw all these people flashing the V sign," he stated. There is a scene like this in "The Last King of Scotland." He recalled staying at The Mandarin Hotel but, due to People Power, he felt safer staying with some students involved in "Platoon." So he moved to "a house in Balic-Balic." Imagine our surprise to hear Forest say the name of that area in Sampaloc!

It got better. He volunteered with pride that he had been learning Filipino martial arts—*kali, arnis* and *eskrima*—under Fil-Am masters "**Dan Inosanto** and **Richard Bustillo**" (he pronounced their last names perfectly).

On our last night in Toronto, our group hosted our usual party with InStyle magazine at the Windsor Arms hotel. In a bash that started at 10 in the evening and ended at two in the morning, it was hard to keep track of the stars but we remembered seeing **Viggo Mortensen, Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, James McAvoy, Dermot Mulroney, Toby Jones** (he stars in yet another Truman Capote biopic, "Infamous" and he gets to kiss the new James Bond, **Daniel Craig**, who plays Perry Smith) and director **Guillermo del Toro**, among others.

* * *

Earlier in LA, **Jenna Dewan**, who starred with **Dante Basco** in "Take the Lead" and now, takes the lead in Disney's surprise dance movie hit, "Step Up," spoke of the Fil-Am actor: "Dante is a really good friend of mine."

When we told Jenna at the press con for "Step Up" that Dante went to the Philippines to promote "Take the Lead," the former backup dancer of Janet Jackson replied, "He told me that. Actually, I just spoke to him. I heard that the Philippines is awesome."

She continued, "Dante and I had the best time working on that movie. For the ending scene when we danced together, we rehearsed for like a month and a half (laughing). We had so much fun. Dante does so many different things wonderfully. He dances, acts, and sings with his brothers. We really got along great."

In "Step Up," Jenna, playing a ballet dancer, falls for a hunky street dancer, **Channing Tatum**. A school athlete and former Abercrombie & Fitch and Emporio Armani model, Channing was grateful for Jenna's guidance: "I could dance in the clubs and stuff but I didn't know how to follow formal choreography and count. Thank God, we had Jenna there. I don't know what the movie would have been if she were not around. She held my hand through the whole thing. We had an immense amount of rehearsal, yeah (laughing)."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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Manage all the projects and initiatives for the Finance Team.
Qualities:
- Knowledge in Project Management
- Experience in project management on reengineering projects
- Able to manage IT Systems development projects
- Has an experience as a business analyst
- Good financial skills experience
- Has experience in managing outsourcing vendors
- MS Project experience
- Knowledgeable in Lotus Notes
- Good communication, writing & Powerpoint skills

Financial Analyst

Will be doing analysis, compiling/consolidating of financial information; provide analysis and following up on inquiries; prepare analysis of financial reports.
Qualities:
- Has an experience as a Financial Analyst
- Advanced technical skills in using MS Excel
- Knowledgeable in Lotus Notes & SunSystems
- With a strong communication & powerpoint skills
- Good technical finance background

Qualities helpful but not required:
- Experience in int'l /multi-currency environment
- Knowledge in using business intelligence software
- Ability to communicate Spanish/French
- NGO experience & with accounting/managing grants

Financial/IT Systems Specialist I

Will be responsible for maintaining the global financial reporting and analysis software; design financial reports and templates; technical support; back-ups, data security, upgrades, application administration; distribution/storage of financial reports generated and doing analysis as required.
Qualities
- With a strong technical background in IT & Finance
- Experience as a Financial Analyst
- Experience in int'l/multi-currency environment

Qualities helpful but not required:
- Technical experience in financial software including report writing
- Knowledgeable in SunSystems & Vision, Business Intelligence Software (Business Objects is leading vendor), Lotus Notes, Monarch Software, Advanced Excel (e.g. designing macros),Report Writers such as Crystal Reports, Visual Basic Programming

Financial/IT Systems Specialist 2

Perform analysis of SunSystems databases.
Qualities:
- Should have a strong SunSystems skills
- Knowledgeable in Business Intelligence Software, Lotus Notes, Monarch Software, Advanced Excel (e.g. designing macros), Report Writers (Crystal Reports)
- Experience in an int'l/multi-currency environment
- Worked in an NGO in acctng/managing grants

Qualities helpful but not required:
- Experience w/ Vision Report Writer
- Technical IT/Finance Skills
- Have worked as a trainer & a business analyst

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To develop e-learning materials to support training & capacity building with World Vision financial systems; hold virtual training sessions on WV Finance applications and on WV Finance policies/procedures
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- Excellent communication skills

Qualities helpful but not required:
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- Knowledgeable in finance/training

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	Pre – Bid Conference	Submission and Opening of Bids
1. Integration Services and Supply of Labor, Rented Materials and Equipment for the full turn key implementation of the International Media Center (IMC) and related support facilities including the design, engineering, cabling, installation and commissioning of the system of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu.	September 18, 2006 4:00 pm	October 2, 2006 10:00 am
2. One (1) unit Cam Mate	September 18, 2006 5:00 pm	October 4, 2006 10:00 am
3. Procurement of Various Software and Hardware	September 20, 2006 10:00 am	October 4, 2006 2:00 pm

Thank you for your kind attention.

(Sgd.) Melba B. Aliguen
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 17, 2006)

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Or e-mail us at: allupreview.center@yahoo.com

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We are a residential subdivision developer in Lipa, Batangas looking for the following:

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   - At least 7 years experience in Sales / Marketing
2. **SALES CONSULTANTS**
   - At least 4 years experience in Sales / Marketing
3. **SALES AGENTS**
   - 1 year experience in Sales / Marketing
4. **CASHIER**
   - At least college level, with at least 1 year related experience
   - Knowledgeable in POS and Excel
   - Should be trustworthy and hardworking
5. **DRIVER / STAFF ASSISTANT**
   - At least 3 years experience in professional driving
   - Can work with minimum supervision and do multi-tasking jobs.

Please SUBMIT your comprehensive resumé with latest colored photo, contact nos. and address indicating salary desired to:

The President
Shelter Systems Development Corporation
Sampaguita Homes-Lipa, Brgy. Sampaguita, Lipa, Batangas

Applicants making it on our shortlist will be called for an interview.

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MODIFIED GLOUCESTER
3 Bedrooms plus Maidroom
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Lot as low as P10 T/Mo.
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ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913
TIN 000-716-369 - V
☎(077) 784-00-82 / 784-71-26 local 818 ⁂ No. 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF CONTRACTORS AND/OR SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc (INEC) is inviting contractors and/or service providers for accreditation that can provide janitorial and security services needed in the operation of the cooperative.

The following requirements are:

Letter of Intent, company profile, track records, technical and financial capability (latest Audited Financial Statement), creditor banks, bank references, BIR Certificates, DTI Registration and current business license

Required documents must be submitted to this office starting September 18-29, 2006 addressed to

ENGR. ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL
General Manager
ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913

ATTENTION:

ENGR. EDWIN P. PASCUA
Chairman - Accreditation Committee
ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913

INEC reserves the right to reject any applicant, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the applicant for any expense or loss that the applicant may incur in applying for accreditation.

(Sgd.) ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL
General Manager

(PDI--Sept. 16 & 17, 2006)

JOB Market COMPACT

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JOB Market

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Cottage Road, Bacolod City
Telephone No. (034) 4347138 and Fax No. (034) 4353960

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED - Division of Negros Occidental, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the various construction materials for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	**Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs**
Location	:	Various Elementary and Secondary Schools under the DepED - Division of Negros Occidental
Funding Source	:	GOP through the GAA CY 2004 & CY 2005 (75% allocation)
Contract Duration	:	One hundred Twenty Calendar Days (120 Calendar Days)
Delivery Sites	:	"Door to Door" delivery to various recipient schools (see Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents.)

APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
CY 2004				CY 2005			
LOT A		LOT B		LOT C		LOT D	
ELEMENTARY TABLE & CHAIRS		SECONDARY ARMCHAIRS		ELEMENTARY TABLE & CHAIRS		SECONDARY ARMCHAIRS	
2530 sets	3,036,000.00	4727 pcs.	2,599,850.00	4586 sets	5,505,600.00	10344 pcs	5,689,200.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The Schedule of BAC Activities is as follows:

Activity	*Date*	*Venue*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 19 to 28, 2006	Property Section, Ground Floor, DepEd Bldg., Cottage Road, Bacolod City
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 28, 2006; 10:00 in the morning	Conference Hall, Division of Negros Occidental Office, Cottage Road, Bacolod City
3. Deadline for the Submission of Bids	October 12, 2006; 10:00 in the morning	Property Section, Conference Hall, Division Office Compound, Cottage Road, Bacolod City
4. Opening of Bids	October 12, 2006; 10:00 in the morning	Conference Hall, Division of Negros Occidental Office, Cottage Road, Bacolod City

Bids in excess of the approved Budget of the contract (ABC) per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php2,000.00 to the DepED – Division of Negros Occidental Cashier.

The DepEd - Division of Negros Occidental, BAC reserves the right to accept or reject and bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) EVA L. BELICENA, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 08-06-2006

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting janitorial service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Project : Three (3) lots Janitorial Services for the Corporate Office

LOT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
1	PAGCOR Hyatt Manila Required number of Janitors: 21 Janitors	Seven Million Two Hundred Fifty One Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Five & 76/100 (Php 7,251,395.76)
2	PAGCOR House Required number of Janitors: 21 Janitors	Seven Million Four Hundred Thirty One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Seven & 20/100 (Php 7,431,757.20)
3	PAGCOR Imus Complex Required number of Janitors: 16 Janitors	Five Million Six Hundred Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Six & 56/100 (Php 5,660,866.56)

NOTE: **Bidders should bid for one (1) lot only.**

Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Source of Funds : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 18, 2006 – October 9, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 26, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	October 10, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	October 10, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five & 70/100 Pesos (Php 3,625.70) for Lot 1, Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen & 88/100 Pesos (Php 3,715.88) for Lot 2 and Two Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty & 43/100 Pesos (Php 2, 830.43) for Lot 3.* In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) RENE C. FIGUEROA
Chairperson, BAC 2

(PDI-Sept. 17 & 24, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites duly licensed Security Agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project;

Name of Project: Supply of Security Services
For deployment to various hospitals and offices in the province of Isabela
Approved Budget Contract: P3,300,000.

All particulars relative to eligibility statement and screening, bid security, performance security, pre-bidding conference, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 18-22, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
2. Pre-bid Conference	September 25, 2006, 10:00 am at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
3. Submission & Opening of Bids	October 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

Bid documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein and to accept bids evaluated to be the most advantageous to the government. Furthermore, the Provincial Government of Isabela is not obliged to compensate/indemnify expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award or contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Sept. 10 & 17, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 08-08-2006 OLO

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting janitorial service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	One (1) lot Janitorial Service – Casino Filipino-Olongapo Required Personnel: 16 janitors
Approved Budget	:	Four Million One Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Four Hundred Forty Four & 80/100 Pesos (Php 4,126,444.80)
Contract Duration	:	Two (2) years
Source of Fund	:	Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office – Casino Filipino-Olongapo.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 15, 2006 – October 9, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 26, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	October 10, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bid	October 10, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

VENUE: Casino Filipino - Olongapo

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders at the upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Two Thousand Sixty Three & 22/100 Pesos (Php 2,063.22).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat Unit, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office – Casino Filipino-Olongapo.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BBAC Secretariat, Casino Filipino – Olongapo.

(Sgd) ANGELITO DE LEON
Chairperson, BBAC Olongapo

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 24, 2006)

BizBox Hospital System

Build a promising career with a leading IT company focused on applications development.

APPLICATIONS SPECIALISTS (Accounting) – full-time positions
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Accounting.
- Knowledgeable in applications of Payable, Disbursement, Receivable and Receipts.
- At least 6 months work experience
- Must be willing to be assigned in provincial clients like in Visayas & Mindanao for 1-2 Months.
- Atleast 20-27 years old.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT – full time positions
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent.
- At least 6 months work experienced as technical support.
- Must be willing to be assigned in provincial clients like in Visayas & Mindanao for 1-2 Months.
- Atleast 20-27 years old.

All applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and willing to travel.
Bring resume at Classica Tower 2, 114 H.V.dela costa, Makati City.
Schedule an interview from September 18-23, 2006.
Look for Che – 7503968. cheryl@bizboxms.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Ms. Lourdes "Bubut" S. Boligao, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with UNITED OVERSEAS BANK PHILIPPINES effective May 18, 2006.

Any transaction entered into or made through her shall not be honored by UOBP.

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ELAINE MEARL D. CINCO

Notice is hereby given to the public that a warrant of arrest has been issued by the **Regional Trial Court – Branch 61 of Angeles City** against **Ms. Elaine Mearl Dizon-Cinco** whose picture appears above, in connection with **Criminal Case No. 06-2407 for Qualified Theft.** A **reward** awaits anyone who may have any information leading to the lawful arrest of **Ms. Elaine Mearl D. Cinco.**

De Guzman Celis & Dionisio Law Office
Counsel – eBusiness Services, Inc., Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02) 631-86-21

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2006)

Fashion Therapy: The solution to fashion breakdowns

CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE RIGHT CLOTHES? Have you spent hours trying to find the right outfit for work or for a night out? Tired of looking for jeans that really fit and colors that complement you? Then you're having a fashion breakdown.

Valerie Cruz Tapalla, expert image and etiquette strategist, and managing Partner of the Wilma Cruz Tapalla Academe of Speech and Personality shares her expertise in fashion and image enhancement in this special session meant for those who seek a new and improved look.

Moreover, contrary to the perception that good fashion is equivalent to expensive brands, Fashion Therapy actually emphasizes the value of looking good even without the expensive price tag. "Fashion need not be extravagant. The important thing is you have the right pieces for the right occasion." Tapalla shares. "Given that most Filipino professionals belong to the middle-class, practicality is, and should be a priority. What's the sense of wearing haute couture when you take a jeep or bus going to work? It's just not practical. Filipinos should keep in mind that they can still look impressive and presentable in budget clothing. With the proper key pieces, accessories and the right attitude, a five hundred peso outfit can look like thousands worth," she adds.

So sign up for therapy and start being fashionable! Join them on Sept. 24, 8 am–12 noon at the Astoria Plaza for a whole new you! For details, call Trifocal Media Solutions, the official marketing arm of WCT Academe of Speech and Personality at Telefax 631-9402, Mobile 0917-8833023 or email trifocalmedia@gmail.com.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ANNE J. EVANGELISTA

This is to inform the public that Ms.Anne J. Evangelista whose picture is shown above is no longer connected with the **Gov. Faustino N. Dy, Sr. Foundation Inc.** (the "Foundation") and is therefore, not authorized to represent the Foundation in any capacity whatsoever. Any transaction entered or will be entered by her in behalf of the Foundation shall not be acknowledged and honored by the said Foundation.

(PDI – September 17, 2006)

WINROCK INTERNATIONAL
Putting Ideas to Work

Department of Energy

Project ACCESS – Accelerating Community Electricity Services Using Solar

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy 2 (AMORE 2) is a five (5) year project being implemented by Winrock International (WI) in partnership with US Agency for International Development (USAID), Department of Energy (DOE), Mirant Philippines Foundation, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). AMORE 2 aims to contribute to the peace and development initiatives in Mindanao by improving the quality of life in unelectrified rural communities through sustainable renewable energy projects and effective community organizing.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed between Winrock International and DOE on December 23, 2005 for the energization of twenty-one (21) off-grid barangays in Zamboanga Peninsula using solar PV systems. Adopting the Sustainable Solar Market Packages (SSMP), Winrock International will energize these areas through the funds provided by the DOE under its Barangay Electrification Project (BEP) funds.

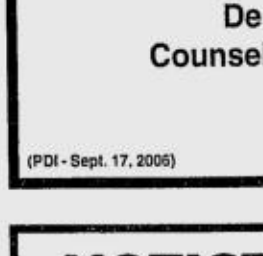
This call for eligibility and to bid is to supply, deliver, install, commission and provide maintenance services for a number of solar photovoltaic systems in public facilities and end use appliances in twenty one (21) barangays as well as to commercially sell and market of solar home systems (SHS) in the provinces of Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte.

1. WI-AMORE intends to apply the sum of Twenty One Million Pesos (Php 21,000,000.00)as the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract entitled Project ACCESS / WI-Amore Contract. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.
2. WI-AMORE invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, installation, commissioning and provision of maintenance services for five (5) years for PV systems installed in twenty one (21) barangays as well as commercially sell and market solar home systems to private customers. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB)
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria. Only bids that pass an eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the Bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LRCB) as determined during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from WI-AMORE and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents and corresponding electronic copy may be secured by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00 from the address below starting Wednesday, 20 September 2006. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representatives.
6. WI-AMORE will hold a Pre-Bid conference open to all interested parties on October 03, 2006, 10:00 am at Unit 1509, 15th Floor, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 16, 2006; 10:00 am **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**
8. Bid opening shall be on October 16, 2006; 10:30 am at AMORE Office, Unit 1509, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. WI-AMORE reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, with out thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

WI-Amore Review and Awards Team
Unit 1509, 15th Floor, Jollibee Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No: +63 (2) 687-9091/92/04

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



EDRIN TAMBONG FLORESCA

Notice is hereby given of the issuance of a warrant of arrest by Branch 78 Regional Trial Court of Morong, Rizal against **EDRIN FLORESCA** in connection with Criminal Case No. 05-30908-A for Qualified Theft. Any information leading to her lawful arrest, please contact VEGA ENTERPRISES Tel. 655-8822.

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2006)

Inquirer Job Market
offers more job opportunities in the fourth quarter!
Watch out for two of this year's biggest job fairs from **Inquirer!**

Inquirer Job Market Overseas
Employment Expo
October 23 and 24 at
the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall

Get more exposure for your ad. Advertise in JobMarket Compact
Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

JOB Market COMPACT **Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.** JOB Market

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : September 17, 2006
Loan No. : PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.

2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the different secondary schools in the Division Offices of Surigao del Sur, Romblon and Zamboanga Sibugay, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Issuance of Bid Documents	Time & Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Time and Date of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Surigao del Sur	Sept. 25-29, 2006	Oct. 2, 2006; 10:00 a.m.	Oct. 16, 2006; 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division of Surigao del Sur, Tandag, Surigao del Sur	(086)211-3970
Romblon	Sept. 25-29, 2006	Oct. 2, 2006; 10:00 a.m.	Oct. 16, 2006; 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division of Romblon, Romblon, Romblon	(054)472-8218
Zamboanga Sibugay	Sept. 25-29, 2006	Oct. 2, 2006; 10:00 a.m.	Oct. 16, 2006; 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division of Zamboanga Sibugay, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay	(062)333-5492

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Divisions of Surigao del Sur, Romblon and Zamboanga Sibugay, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone numbers as identified in paragraph 2.

5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) only.

6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informally therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **Eve F. Fajutag**
DBAC Chairman
Romblon

(Sgd.) **Gloria P. Zamora**
DBAC Chairman
Zamboanga Sibugay

(Sgd.) **Teofela G. Cabatuan**
DBAC Chairman
Surigao del Sur

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 24, 2006)

Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

W. Vinzons St., Albay District, Legazpi City Telephone Nos. 481-1584, 481-5555, 487-4625 481-5021, 485-2348 • Fax: 820-2668

INVITATION TO BID

The ALECO, INC. invites interested contractors and suppliers to submit prequalification documents, and to bid for the supply of the following materials and equipment, on a consignment basis.

SCHEDULE I
KILOWATT HOUR METERS Brand New / 220 Volts / Single Phase, Electronic

			BRAND
a.	Class 10(60) -	10,000 pcs.	Americo
B.	Class 100 with meter base -	5,000 pcs.	GTC

SCHEDULE II
DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS
13.2 (7620 / 13200 y) 120/240 V Sec.
Pole type OISC Brand New DB

			BRAND
a.	15 KVA -	15 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
b.	25 KVA -	30 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
c.	37.5 KVA -	30 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
d.	50 KVA -	15 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
e.	75 KVA -	6 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
f.	100 KVA -	3 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner

SCHEDULE III
WIRES

Duplex Wire #6	-	50,000 meters
Duplex Wire #2	-	50,000 meters
ACSR Bare Wire #2	-	50,000 meters
ACSR Bare Wire #2/0	-	50,000 meters
Insulated Copper Wire #2/0	-	5,000 meters
Bare Wire Copper #4	-	5,000 meters
Bare Wire #336.4 MCM Linnet	-	1,500 meters

SCHEDULE IV
CURRENT TRANSFORMERS (69 kV) 6 pieces
Outdoor Type
Dual Ratio - 400 / 300:5 Amp
POTENTIAL TRANSFORMERS (69 kV) 6 pieces
Outdoor Type
Ratio - 350:1 Amp
LIGHTNING ARRESTERS (75 kV) 6 pieces
10 Ka
With strike counter

Pre-qualification documents shall be received by ALECO on or before September 22, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. A *Pre-Bid Conference* will be held on September 26, 2006 at the ALECO Main Office at 2:00 p.m. *Submission/Opening of Bids* shall be on *October 11, 2006* at *2:00 p.m.* at ALECO Boardroom.

Eligibility and *bidding documents* may be secured from the ALECO office starting September 25, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00.

Only pre-qualified bidder shall be allowed to submit proposals. ALECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to ALECO.

(Sgd.) **ALEXIS C. CAMU**
PBAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ALEX M. REALOZA**
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 20, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City
website: www.bghmc.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

1. The BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER, intends to apply the sum of:
   Php 60 million being the Approved Budget for the Contract of Supply and Delivery of Drug & Medicines, and
   Php 40 million being the Approved Budget for the Contract of Supply and Delivery of Medical, Surgical Supplies and Laboratory Reagents & Supplies.
   Source of Funding is GOP and Hospital Income. Contract shall commence January 1, 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER, now invites sealed Bids of Eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of:
   a. Drugs and Medicines
   b. Medical, Dental, Surgical Supplies
   c. Laboratory Reagents and Supplies
   The description of an Eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from September 18 to September 25, 2006, 8:00 to 3:00 pm at the office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. MA. TERESA C. FAJARDO, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) at the Cashier's Office.** Deadline for the submission of Bid Documents is on October 9, 2006 at 12:00 noon. LATE BIDS shall NOT BE ACCEPTED.
4. BGHMC will hold the PRE-BID CONFERENCE for any clarifications on:
   Date : September 25, 2006 (Monday)
   Time : 1:00 in the afternoon
   Venue : Cobalt Building, Baguio General Hospital & Medical Center
5. OPENING OF BIDS is scheduled on:
   Date : October 9, 2006 (Monday)
   Time : 1:00 p.m.
   Venue : Cobalt Building, Baguio General Hospital & Medical Center
6. The BGHMC Bids and Awards Committee shall award the contract to suppliers with the lowest qualifying bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to accept or reject bids to waive minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.
7. For inquiries you may call the following BAC Secretariat:
   Ms. Teresa C. Fajardo - (074) 442-4216 local 226
   Ms. Aurora S. Lumague - (074) 442-4216 local 359

(Sgd.) **NIEVES S. MACARANAS, MD, FPPS**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee
BGHMC

(PDI – Sept. 11 & 17, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
3/F Building 6 San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1003 Manila
Trunk Line 743-83-01 locals 1650, 1651, & 1652, Fax 743-8301 local 1651
URL: http://www.doh.gov.ph

13 September 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC), invites consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Assessment of the Health Information System and the Development of Philippine Health Information System Strategic Plan (IFB-CS-GOP-2006-14)
Brief Description : The consultant is tasked to assess the current health information system (HIS) and develop a comprehensive plan that will integrate and harmonize the Philippines Health Information System (HIS)
Approved Budget For the Contract : Php 1,408,000.00
Source of Funding : Health Metrics Network (HMN)
Contract Duration : Twelve (12) Months

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. A minimum of three (3) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 70% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated. The technical proposal shall carry 70% weight in the bid evaluation.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security , Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	September 22, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 22 - 29, 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	September 29, 2006
4. Results of Eligibility Check	September 29, 2006
5. Results of Short Listing	October 6, 2006
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 6-26, 2006
7. Pre-Bid Conference	October 13, 2006

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at 3rd Floor, Bldg. No. 6, COBAC Secretariat, Procurement Division, San Lazaro Compd., Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila upon submission of a letter of intent. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) to the Department of Health Cashier.

The Department of Health assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved By:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 17, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
Telephone No. 813-3353 & 221-3114 Telefax No. 813-2141
E-mail Address: buk_provl_bac@yahoo.com.ph
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project	Project I - Proposed Delivery and Installation of two (2) units Elevator of Bukidnon Provincial Hospital
Location	Casisang, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
Brief Description	Complete Delivery and installation of two Elevator units including its necessary accessories
Contract Reference Number	300-06-0024
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 3,600,000.00
Contract Duration	210.00 Calendar days
Name of Project	Project II-Proposed Delivery and Installation of Air Conditioning and Ventilation units of Bukidnon Provincial Hospital
Location	Casisang, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
Brief Description	Complete delivery and installation of Air conditioning and ventilation
Contract Reference Number	300-06-0025
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 2,705,299.30
Contract Duration	75.00 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 AND ITS implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

1. Advertisement/Posting of IAEB at the Provincial Website, GEPS & conspicuous places	September 15, 2006 - September 28, 2006
2. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 28, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. only
3. Notice of Results for Eligibility Check	September 28, 2006
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 29, 2006
5. Pre-Bid	October 3, 2006 - 2:00 P.M.
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 10, 2006 - 2:00 P.M.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of non-refundable amount of P 200.00 Eligibility Form to the Provincial Treasurer Office. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Malaybalay City. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by BAC Secretariat at the same address.

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non refundable Bid documents fee in the amount of five hundred pesos (P2,000.00).

For inquiry, Please call Telephone Nos. 088-813-3353 and 088 221-3114
The Provincial Government of Bukidnon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES**
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 21, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply of Services thru outsourcing of One Hundred Sixty-Seven (167) Blue Guards per BSP Terms of Reference
Approved Budget for the Contract	P38,690,995.68
Contract Duration	One (1) year reckoned from the date of the execution of the contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	11 September - 21 September 2006 (up to 2 PM only)
2. Pre-bid Conference	22 September 2006, 4:00 PM
3. Opening of Bids	10 October, 2 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods
5. Post-qualification	) allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)
6. Notice of Award	) A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P19,350.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 17, 2006)

KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB PROJECT
Office of the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee
Barangay: Buenavista
Municipality: Buenavista
Province: Quezon

INVITATION TO BID

Date: September 7, 2006

The community of **Buenavista** has received assistance from the DSWD KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project. Funds come from the Loan from the World Bank/International Development Association (IDA) and from the Philippine Government.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their offered price for the contract indicated below:

Construction and completion of the works listed below:
Name of Subproject: **Rehabilitation of 3.7 km Farm to Market Road**

Items No.	Items of Work/Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Total
100	Clearing and Grubbing	25,900	sqm		
102	Excavation	27,797	cum		
104	Embankment	5,114.46	cum		
105	Sub-Grade Preparation	25,900	sqm		
200	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	2,664	cum		
201	Aggregate Base Course	2,442	cum		
	TOTAL				P
	Amount in Words				

We will only accept an offered price that is fixed and is not subject to any adjustment. Bid shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) days from the date of submission.

Bidding documents may be obtained from the BSPCM Brgy. Buenavista, Buenavista, Quezon or at the Cashier in the DSWD Regional Office, Region IV-A at Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City after payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 3,000.00.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the ABC Hall, Poblacion, Buenavista, Quezon on September 15, 2006 at 10:00 am.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following forms:

Cash	1.0% of total bid price
Bank Guarantee	1.5% of total bid price
Surety Bond	2.5% of total bid price

All bids must be received on September 25, 2006 at 3:00 pm and will be opened in public in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the following address:

Kalahi-CIDSS: KKB Project
Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee
Haven for Women
Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

The community reserves the right to reject any bid or waive any defect or formality. The lowest calculated and responsive bid shall be used as the criterion in the selection of the contractor. The community will not reimburse any expenses related to the preparation of bids.

(Sgd.) **ROLANDO E. RODRIGUEZ**
Chairperson, Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee

(PDI – Sept. 10 & 17, 2006)

PETRON
Needs
SERVICE STATION DEALERS
for

Locations	Required Cash Capital	Deadline for Submission of Application
1. 122 Mc Arthur Highway, Marulas, Valenzuela City	P4.0M	09/22/06
2. Quezon Avenue, Lucena City, Quezon	P6.0M	10/02/06
3. Pres. Laurel Highway, Tanauan, Batangas	P5.0M	10/02/06
4. P. Makro, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite	P5.0M	10/02/06
5. Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna	P5.0M	10/15/06
6. Molino – Paliparan Road, Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite	P6.0M	10/16/06
7. Petron Legazpi Terminal, Lakandula Drive, Legazpi City, Albay	P4.5M	10/31/06
8. Tahao Road cor Alternate Road, Legazpi City, Albay	P4.5M	10/31/06

Note: Above capital requirement needed for actual station operation;
No up-front money is given to Petron.

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply:
a. Must be able to put up required capitalization;
b. Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis;
c. Must not be an existing dealer of any other oil company.

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation Jesus St., Pandacan Manila c/o Ms. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 Loc. 282. Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.

(PDI-September 17, 2006)

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

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2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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Ms. Sue Monk (Australia)
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(Sept. 16, 2006)
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SIGHTHOUNDS
SATURDAY AFTERNOON
COMPANION &
TOY DOGS
SCENT HOUNDS &
RELATED BREEDS
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Notice is given that the Estate of the late EDUARDO LACBAY was settled extrajudicially with waiver by his heirs Per Doc. No. 4620 Page No. 924 Book No. X Series of 2006 of Notary Public Jose L. Alvarez Jr. Of San Pedro Laguna. (PDI Sept. 17,24 & Oct. 1, 2006)

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AUCTION SALE

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-Ilog Marilao, Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of MARCH 2006 willl be Auctioned on SEPT. 25 8:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- Sept. 17, 2006)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Aliw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of MAR. 2006 willl be Auctioned on SEPT. 25, 10:00am. Lanuza & Sons Autioneer. (PDI- SEPT.17, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Extra-Judicial Settlement
Notice is Hereby given that the estate of the late JAIME C. LUBIANO who died intestate on May 13,2002 left a Parcel of Land covered by TCT No. 153032 has been extra judicially settled among heirs Per Doc. No. 23 Page No. 6 Book No. V Series of 2006 Executed before notary public Atty LETECIA S MARIANO DE GUIA of Paranaque City
(PDI Sept.3,10&17,06)

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ADELINA KNAPP-OLMEDO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC SOCRATES G. MARANAN OF MAKATI CITY AS PER DOC. # 473 PAGE #95 BOOK # XXXIX, SERIES OF 2006. (PDI SEPT. 17,24 & OCT. 1, 2006)

Notice is given that estate of SPS Dalisay & Idelfonso Alamo with TCT No T-40960 of the Rd of Cavite has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs Per Doc 419 Page 84 Book 48 Series 2006 Notarized Before Atty Fidencio Zerrudo.
PDI–Sept 17, 24 Oct. 1, 2006

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RUPERTO C. GAITE has been extrajudicially setted among his heirs as per Doc. No. 386, Page No. 78, Book No. I, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Juanito B. Almosa, Jr of Mandaluyong City.
(Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

6,300 AYALA CORP. SHARES CERTIFICATE NO. 14562 REGISTERED TO YOLANDA L. CHUA WAS DECLARED LOST. IF FOUND PLEASE CONTACT BDO SECURITIES CORP. 667-1571-73 IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED, NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED.

EASYCALL Cert No. 02153 Of DONJONPAUL CALDERON was lost If no contest received new certificate will be issue.(PDI Sept. 3,10&17'06)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the ff: AC Stk Certs are lost Nos. 352915213, 7123609, 7134726,7149066, 7167866, 7183805, 7710105, 7712111, 7721706, 7727495, 7733582, 7738359, 7744540, 7753344, 7762463, 7771065, 7795409,7134716, 7710338, 7712110, 7721705, 7727494, 7733581, 7744541, 7753345,7762464, 7771066, 7795410. All in the name of Fely Dizon. If no contest received, new cert. will be issued. PDI–Sept. 3, 10 & 17, 2006

Notice is hereby given that Aboitiz Equity Ventures stock cert.#100215 w/ 9000 shares issued to ADELAIDA M. UY &/or NAIDA RIVERA was declared lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 3, 10 & 17, 2006)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pasay City
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY
Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041
Two (2) Legislative Staff Officer VI (Field Investigator) SG22 Item Nos. 38-1 and 38-6 Q.S. Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, Four (4) years relecant experience, Twenty Four (24) hours relevant trainings and Career Service Professional eligible. Send Comprehensive Resume' with 2x2 colored picture to: Commission on Appointments, 6F PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City

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COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pasay City
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY
Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041
One (1) LSA II (Clerk) Item No. 47-1 SG 10-1 Q.S: Completion of two (2) yrs studies in college, 1 year relevant experience, (4) hrs of relevant training and Career Service Subprofessional eligibility. Send Comprehensive Resume' with 2x2 colored picture to: Commission on Appointments, 6F PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City

CAREGIVER 528-0747

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MARINDUQUE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(MARELCO)
Ihatub, Boac, Marinduque

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO) through its Pre-Bid and Awards Committee (PBAC) hereby invites all interested suppliers for public bidding for the supply and delivery of electrical materials and equipments for the Conversion of Radial Type Feeder to Loop Primary Feeder (Interlooping).

Schedule I	Pole line Hardwares
Schedule II	Wires and Cables
Schedule III	Poles and Crossarms
Schedule IV	Pole Line Equipment

Approved Budget P2.9M
Source of Funds National Electrification Administration (NEA)

Bidding Requirements:
1. Bidder must be an "Accredited Supplier" of MARELCO
2. Must have attended the Pre-Bid Conference
3. Must have secured Bid Forms and Documents upon payment of non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (4,000.00)
4. Must have posted 10% Bid Bond in cash or Manager's check.

Schedule of Activities:

1.	Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 25, 2006 - 9:00 a.m
2.	Bid-Submission and Opening	Sept. 25, 2006 - 1:00 p.m
3.	Submission of recommendation of Award to the General Manager	Sept. 26, 2006

MARELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein or accept the bid that in its judgment is the most beneficial to the Cooperative.

For more information, please contact the PBAC Chairman, Norberto Manrique at Telephone Nos.: (042)3321044.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO Q. BUENO
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 19, 2006)

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The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; --Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23: 1, 4 & 6

Susan Sonya "Yet" Severino

Peacefully joined the Lord on September 7, 2006 in Toronto, Canada

She is reunited with her parents Lope Severino, Jr. and Virginia Ignacio Severino.

Her bereaved family:

Sister Olga and husband Jose Martel, children Katrina and Joseph Cockerham, George and Boompy Martel and grandchildren Sophia, Olivia and Isabella Cockerham

Sister Lala and husband Ernesto Baluyut, children Dondi and Rinna, Erika and grandson Javy Baluyut

Brother Lope "Aboy" Severino

Brother Lino Severino (+) and wife Warlyn Fernandez, children Chuck, Nich and Vanna, Lindy and granddaughter Noelle Severino

Bunny and Ruby, Speedy and Marivic, Rico and Dyn Severino, Nadja and Michael Beck and grandchildren Paolo and Nico, Gino and Bea, Evan, Justine, Anton and Marco Severino, Maxi, Florian and Julia Beck

Requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Monday, September 18, 2006 at 6 o'clock in the evening at the North Forbes Park Pavilion, Makati City.

Our Dearly Beloved

Bro. Marciano C. Magnait

April 17, 1941

peacefully joined his Creator on September 14, 2006 at the age of 65.

His wife, Sis. Meding J. Magnait,
children and grandchildren;
Marvin and Girly; Cocoy, Gabby and Marv
Marlon and Dedeth; Alex Nicole and Axle

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws;
Venancio, Justa, Crispin and Linda, Jovito and Imelda, Cely and Felipe
Demy and Edwin, Emma and Fal, Larry and Fe
would like to request you to join them in offering a prayer
for the eternal rest of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of La Naval Chapel,
Midtown Subdivision, Brgy. San Roque, Marikina City.
Interment will be on the 19th of September 2006
at Heaven's Gate 1, Brgy. Mambugan, Antipolo City

Schedule of Masses:
Daily Mass at 9:00 pm, Our Lady of La Naval Chapel
Funeral Mass at 8:00 am on September 19, 2006
Gregorian Masses at 5:30 pm from September 20 - October 19, 2006
Sts. Peter & John Parish, Potrero, Malabon City

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in Me, shall have eternal life..."

We, the family of the late

XAVIER PERTIERRA y BARRIOS

who passed away peacefully in his sleep,
wish to convey to you dear family and friends,
our most profound gratitude for your overwhelming and
generous outpouring of love which helped to ease our pain;
and for being one with us in our moments of deepest sorrow.

Xavier thanks you and smiles down upon you all.

Vicki
Eduardo, Sylvia, Katrina, Ed, Frankie & Alessandra
Juan Carlos
Marivic & Iñaki
Miguel, Trisha & Ines

Dr. ANTONIO A. SANTOS

November 9, 1930 – September 15, 2006

Former Mapua Faculty Member

Kind Husband to **Anna**
Loving Tatay to **Andreas** & **Auey**
Proud Lolo to **Axel**
Dutiful Brother to **Ambet** & **Rosa**
Loyal friend

His ashes lie in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, September 19 & 20 with Memorial Masses at 8pm.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

Magdalena Panganiban Natividad

Born: February 11, 1924
Died: September 14, 2006

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children **Butch** & **Amy**, **Mae** & **Vincent**; grandchildren **Anna**, **Jun**, **Mellaine**, **Tina Dolor**, **Kirk**, **Kelsy**, **Kenneth**, **Kaitlin**, **Christenn**, **Margaret**; friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Don Bosco Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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*"INTO YOUR HANDS, LORD, I COMMEND MY SPIRIT" **PSALM 31:5***

IRENE MOROTA BULURAN

Joined her Creator on 16 September 2006.

Her bereaved family **Jowi, Miko & Celine**; Parents **Willie & Vivian**; Brothers **Fr. John Arturo & Willie, Jr.**; Sister **Marinet**; In-laws; Relatives & Friends request to join them in prayers for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie at the Sacred Heart Parish Church, Kamuning, Quezon City.

Cremation will be held on 20 September, Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. Loyola Memorial Park Crematory, Marikina City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Sacred Heart Parish Church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

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I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing." Genesis 12:2

Gen. Joselin Berdin Nazareno

(1943 – 2006)

AFP Chief of Staff 1998 – 1999

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 13, 2006 at the age of 63.

His loving wife **Minerva** (†); children **Jemini, Jonner, Jollie** & **Sabas** III; Brother and Sisters **Lilian, Myrna** & **Melvin**; Nephews, Nieces, Relatives and Friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Evangelical Church, Capinpin Ave., Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Cubao, Quezon City.

Necrological service will be on Monday, September 18, 2006, 8:00 p.m. at Canopy Area, General Headquarters Armed Forces of the Philippines, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, after the 9:00 a.m. service at Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

Message of Thanks

On August 17, 2006, our beloved

ZOSIMO J. CABLITAS

Retired Acting Provincial Fiscal-Leyte
Former Municipal Judge
Born: November 21, 1916
Died: August 17, 2006
Interment held on August 27, 2006 at the Hindang, Leyte Old Cemetery,

—o—

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle Autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft star that shines at night.
Do not stand by my grave and cry
I am not there. I did not die.

—o—

died and went home to be in God's eternal bosom, there to live in peace in His eternal glory. His going home was a moment of intense grief for us, yet made easier to bear for there were loved ones, relatives, friends and colleagues who offered their time to comfort and assure us of the presence and love of God in our life.

To all, we offer our deepest gratitude, and our prayer for God Almighty's blessing in your life today and beyond.

Cablitas Family

Loving wife Bingbing; children Lolong, Tony, Wadang, Onden, Penny, Nora, Menmen, Ondo, Cirilo Alil, Inday and Tete; daughters-in-law Carmen, Yoly and Tess; sons-in-law Raul, Romy, Val, Carding, Rudy and Tinkee; grandchildren Ryan, Jong, Tonyboy, Tonito, Carla, Ann, An-an, Jun-jun, Tayne, Borik, Loleng, Satsat, Tosing, Marthy; great grandchildren, Jazmine, Angelo and E.J.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

VICENTE "VIC" ABAD PÉREZ

Who has reunited with Our Father on September 7, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses, prayers and meditation, sent flowers, donations, and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways condoled and comforted us.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
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CLASSIFIEDS

Palscon hails warning on hiring

JOB APPLICANTS SHOULD LOOK INTO the "fine prints" of their employment contracts obtained specially through so-called "manpower cooperatives" to avoid exploitation while protecting their rights and benefits under the law, while principal or client companies should beware of such "manpower cooperatives" in hiring their services.

This was the advice given by officials of the Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors, Inc. (Palscon) following a warning from the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) that such "manpower cooperatives" could not engage in the recruitment and placement of persons in accordance with the Labor Code.

Lawyer Giovanni H. Melgar, Palscon president said his group of 57 professional and independent service contractors provides corporations their requirements for skilled and trained workers for temporary, casual, regular and project employment.

"While our group provides all employees hireds by client all benefits under the Labor Code and other laws," Melgar said "some manpower cooperatives have claimed exemption from these obligation, thus short-changing the workers they deploy of benefits under the laws, especially security of tenure."

The workers deployed by these manpower cooperatives are being misled and disguised as self-employed who must pay both the employee's and employer's shares to become SSS and Pag-Ibig members, he added.

Melgar cited a decision of the Supreme Court in San Miguel Corporation vs. Abella et. al. (GR1490011, June 28, 2005), declaring that the 97 workers deployed the Sun Flower Multi-Purpose Cooperative in the SMC shrimp processing plant were employees of the company, and entitled to full benefits, privileges and awards under the law.

The high court's ruling upheld the contention of the workers that Sun Flower was a labor-only contractor considered an agent of SMC.

Melgar's advice also followed a memo dated Aug. 4, 2006 issued by Ma. Luisa Gigette S. Imperial, director of the Labor department's Bureau of Labor Employment, ordering all BLE regional directors "not to accept applications of cooperatives for issuance or renewal of license to operate a private recruitment and placement agency."

Imperial cited an opinion from Lawyer Niel A. Santillan, CDA executive director, which said "due to the peculiar and unique characteristics of these manpower cooperatives... they could not engage in recruitment and placement of persons as strictly and technically defined by the Labor Code..."

Meanwhile, Palscon has scheduled a special conference on "Legal aspects of service contracting: Service providers and manpower cooperatives" on Sept. 21, at the Legend Villas, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. Interested parties can call up tel. Nos. 732-0384, 534-0035 and 244-1675.

The conference, which is co-sponsor by Job Market and Globe Telecom, will seek to enlighten the principal or client companies on all legal aspects in service contracting, whether they will hire service contractors or "manpower cooperatives."

Employment improves in July 2006

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYment (DOLE) recently reported a brighter employment picture for the country as total employment nationwide in July 2006 grew by 2.3 percent, from 32.522 million in the same period last year to 33.257 million

Acting Labor and Employment Secretary Danilo P. Cruz said that based on the July 2006 round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the National Statistics Office, this indicates, in absolute terms, that a total of 735,000 in new employment were generated during the period.

Cruz said that the country's services sector maintained its top position as the biggest employment generator of the economy in July 2006, with wholesale and retail trade contributing 45.3 percent (+333,000) to total employment creation, followed by private households with employed persons (34.7 percent or +255,000).

Cruz said that further employment gains were registered in other community, social and personal services (+110,000), real estate, renting and business activities (+91,000), and public administration and defense, compulsory social security (+55,000).

The Acting Labor Chief said that quality of employment also substantially improved in July 2006, as reflected by a 3.6 percent (+719,000) rise in full-time employment, complemented by a 7.5 percent increase (+1.220 million) in wage and salary employment.

In absolute terms, Cruz said that "the number of workers nationwide with full time jobs rose from 20.24 million in July 2005, to 20.959 million in July 2006." On the other hand, he also noted significant reductions in the following categories: unpaid family workers (-266,000), own account workers (-219,000), as well as part time workers (-21,000).

Cruz added that nationwide, "employment grew in all but two of the country's 17 regions, with the biggest growth recorded in the National Capital Region at 22.4 percent (+165,000), followed closely by Region 6 (Western Visayas) at 21.2 percent (+156,000)."

He said that other regions posted growth in new employment including Region 4-A (CALABARZON) at 17.4 percent (+128,000); Region 11 (Davao) at 10.7 percent (+79,000); and Region 7 (Central Visayas) at 10.6 percent (+78,000).

Amidst the nationwide growth in new employment, Cruz also noted the 2.6 percent expansion in the labor force, or nearly one million (+928,000) as of July 2006. "Although largely absorbed by the 735,000 growth posted in new employment, unemployment still rose by a negligible 0.3 percentage point to 8.0 percent," he said.

Cruz, nonetheless, expressed confidence that the slight setback will be easily overcome as the employment outlook for the rest of 2006 continues to be vibrant. The Acting Labor Chief said that more employment are expected to be generated due to the following factors: 1) the projected higher agricultural output due to improved weather conditions; 2) prevailing strong demand for services sector workers from the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry; 3) higher export receipts; and, 4) the falling petroleum prices that may result in the recovery of the manufacturing sector.

Contractors holds confab

THE PHILIPPINE ASsociation of Local Service Contractors is holding a conference on Sept. 21, on the "Legal Aspect of Service Contracting:" Service Providers and Manpower Cooperatives" at the Banahaw Hall of the Legend Villas, Pioneer St. Mandaluyong City.

This is part of Palscon's campaign to illuminate the issues surrounding the practice of service contracting and its emerging variant of manpower cooperatives. A recent Supreme Court ruling put to doubt the legitimacy of manpower cooperatives as true employers in the light of the prohibition on labor only contracting.

Interested parties may call the Palscon secretariat at 7320384.

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. Must have high comprehension, must be an active listener, and a critical thinker

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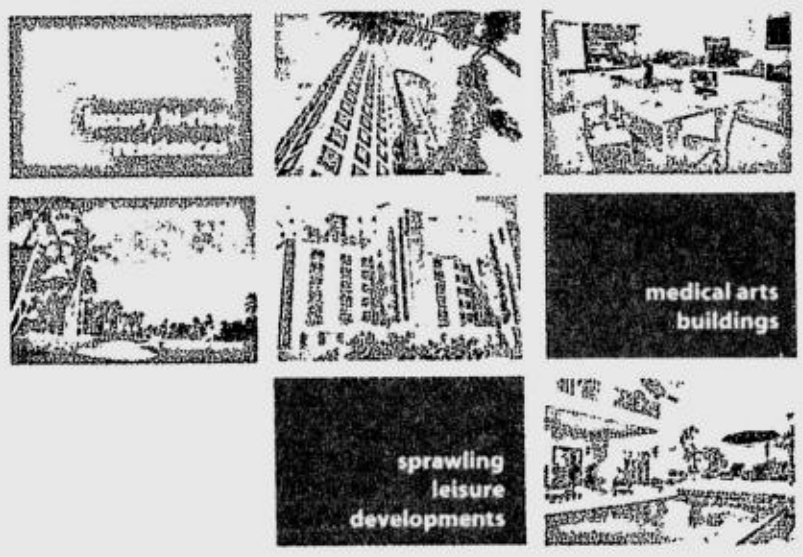

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- ✓ Knows how to repair hardware and maintain integrity of a server and its intranet system
- ✓ Excellent oral and written English communication skills

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Assists the President in all meetings, transactions, negotiations, contract preparations and concluding account.
- ✓ College graduate with at least 2-3 years work experience preferably in the insurance or HMO company
- ✓ Strong client/customer network and service skills
- ✓ Computer literate (xp windows, excel, publisher, powerpoint)
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- ✓ College graduate with 1-2 years experience as data encoder
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Unit D2, 2nd Flr., Padilla Bldg.,
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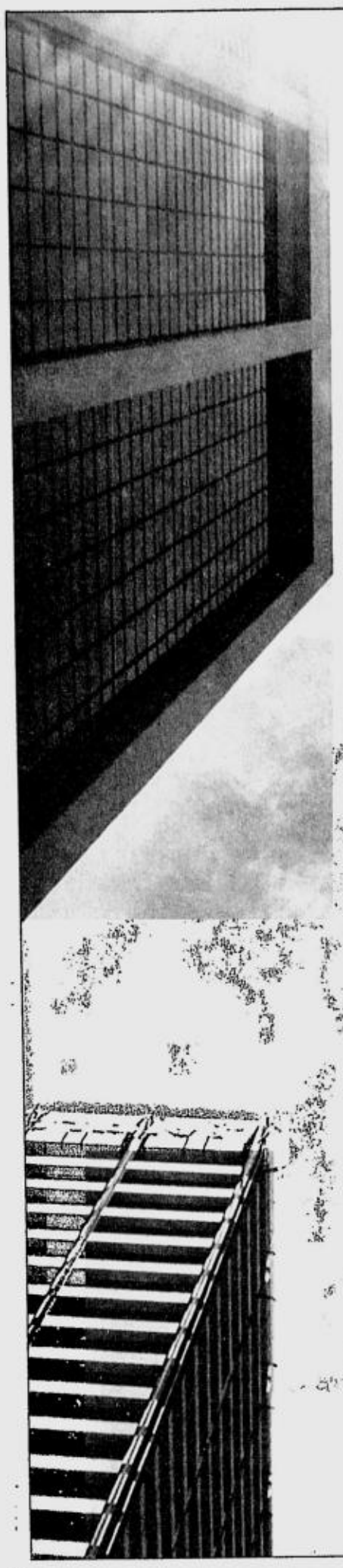

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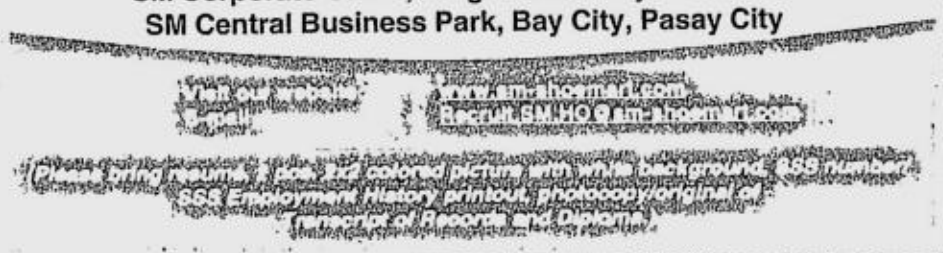

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Background in mall operations, building administration or property, safety and security management will be an advantage

With strong commitment to customer satisfaction

With attributes of initiative, leadership, tenacity and a knack to details

With good sense of judgment

ACCOUNTING MANAGERS
(Corporate Office | Southmall)

Certified Public Accountant

With managerial experience in all facets of accounting and auditing management

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(Corporate Office)

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Innovative and well-versed on current market trends

Confident and smart

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With strong commitment to customer satisfaction

Can work effectively under pressure

With good sense of judgement

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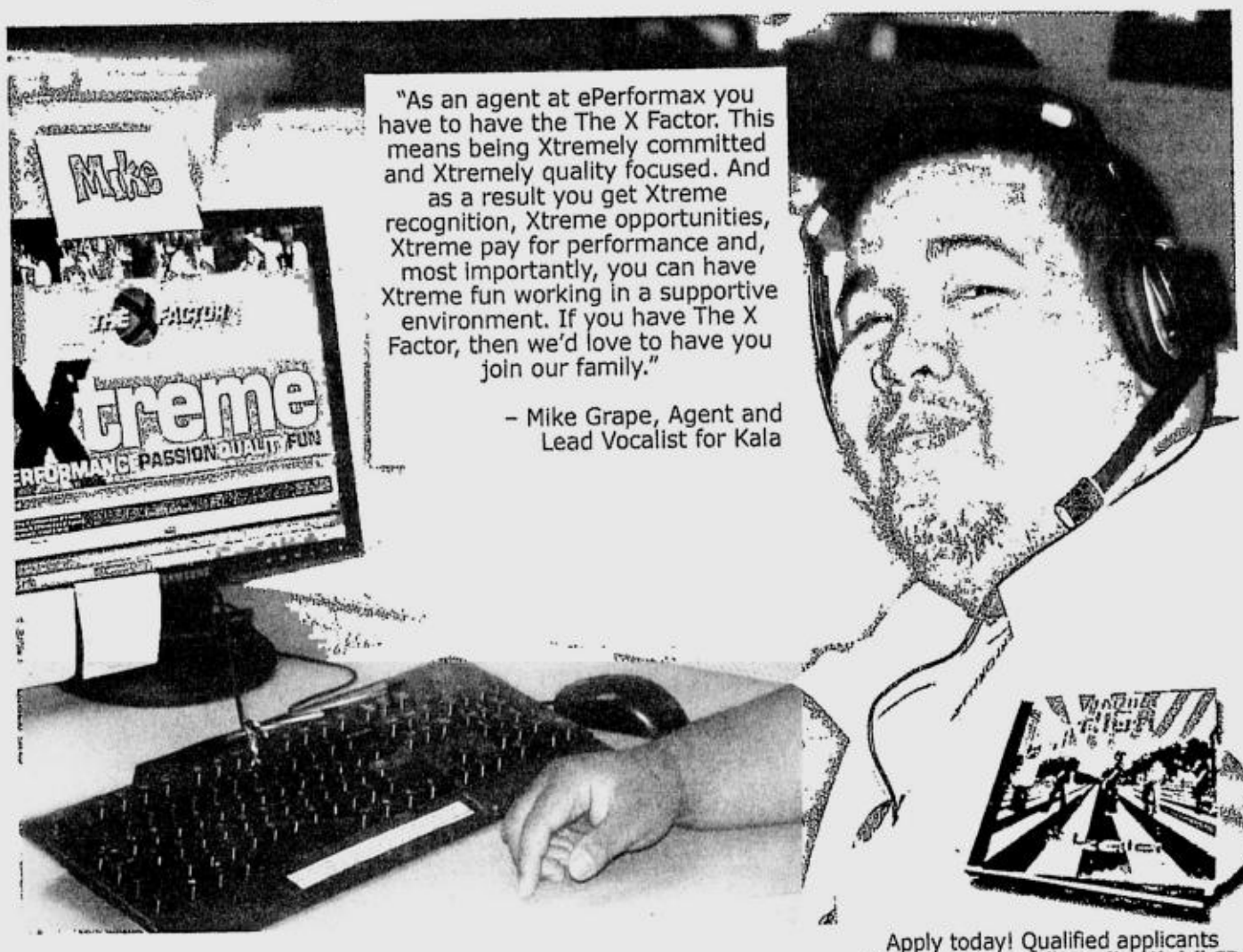

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Responsible for the company's human resources programs: recruitment, benefits and compensation, organizational development, training and employee relations. You should be a graduate of business management, industrial relations, psychology, or a similar course, preferably with a Masters degree, with five (5) years managerial experience in Human Resources earned from a company with more than 300 employees.

ENGINEERING MANAGER

Responsible for the management of the Engineering department covering plant and equipment design, project planning, maintenance of the manufacturing plant's equipment and facilities including environmental control. You should be 30 to 45 years old; graduate of any Engineering course, with at least five years of experience in a similar capacity, preferably in a food manufacturing company.

We offer excellent career advancement opportunities and an attractive compensation package to qualified candidates. Please send your letter of application, indicating briefly your main qualification for the position, your current compensation, and attach your resumé with photograph to:

The General Manager
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Gardenia Centre, Star Avenue, LIIP, Mamplasan, 4038 Biñan, Laguna
Tel No. (02) 8898890, (049)5391136-40 local 202
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• His profile:
- Technical background should be higher technician in electro-mechanics or engineer with good knowledge of automation.
- Mininum sales experience of 4 - 5 years in the instrumentation market with similar products (such as flow meters, level measurement, etc.)
- Proficient in English, written and spoken
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- Should be residing in the area of Manila.

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In case you are interested, please e-mail your application and C.V. to Gerry Constantino at constantino@eccp.com

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- With at least 2 years experience in bookkeeping/ accounting
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- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
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Send resumé with contact number to Suite 606, Richmonde Plaza, 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Look for Mercy or Maricris (Fax No. 638-5230).

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Please submit complete Bio-data with picture to:

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Tel.: (632) 860-0000

Baguio 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Baguio City Economic Zone, Loakan Road, Baguio City, Philippines 2600
Tel.: (074) 446-7410

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The National Transmission Corporation *(TransCo)* is pleased to invite all interested applicants to the following programs under its Integrated Traineeship Program (ITP) for Year 2007:

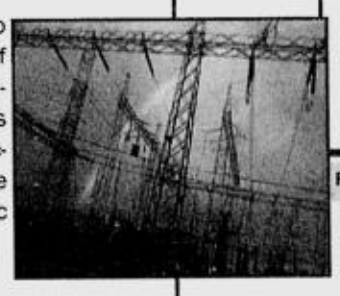
- Cadetship Program

  A six (6) month on-the-job training program intended for graduates of Electrical (EE), and Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) Courses.

- Apprenticeship Program

  A six (6) month-on-the-job training program intended for graduates of Technical/Vocational Courses (i.e. Electrical Technology, Industrial Technology, Electronics Technician, Computer Technician, Aircraft Mechanic, etc.)

The ITP aims to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electric power transmission.



Qualification Requirements:

- *Not more than twenty-five (25) years old;*
- *No failing grades in major subjects; (Please bring original Transcript of Records.)*
- *For the Apprenticeship Program—must pass the TransCo Mental Ability, Aptitude and Personality Test (MAAP) Test.*
- *For the Cadetship Program—must pass the TransCo MAAP Test and the Technical Examination* formulated by the TransCo Board of Examiners.*

**Only those who passed the MAAP examination are qualified to take the Technical Examination scheduled on November 11, 2006 for Luzon/Metro Manila and on November 17, 2006 for Visayas/Mindanao.*

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING STARTS ON JANUARY 8, 2007.

*Only applicants who meet the first two (2) requirements may personally apply on **September 18 to October 6, 2006** (1:30 PM to 4:30 PM only) at the following TransCo Offices:*

For Residents of Metro Manila:

Human Resource Training Division
Human Resource Department
G/F, TransCo Main Building, Power Center,
Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (02)981-2139 or (02)981-2157

For Residents of North Luzon Area:

HR/Administration Division-Regional Office
Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point
San Fernando City, La Union
Tel Nos. (072)888-0837 or (072)888-0839

District 1—Ilocos Area
Bauang Substation, Barangay Pottot, Bauang, La Union
Tel Nos. (072)242-1178 or (072)2421174

District 2—Mt. Province Area
Beckel Substation, La Trinidad, Benguet
Tel Nos. (074)444-7425 or (074)444-7423

District 3—North Central Plain Area
San Manuel Substation, San Manuel, Pangasinan
Tel Nos. (075)565-3260 or (075)656-3267

District 4—Cagayan Valley Area
Santiago Substation, Barangay Rizal, Santiago City, Isabela
Tel Nos. (078)682-8406 or (078)682-8408

District 5—West Central Plain Area
Hermosa Substation, Barangay Balsik, Hermosa, Bataan
Tel Nos. (047)481-3839 or (045)971-6780

District 6—South Central Plain Area
Mexico S/S, Brgy. San Jose Matulid, Mexico, Pampanga
Tel Nos. (045)966-0436 or (045)966-0440

District 7—Northern Tagalog Area
San Jose Substation, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
Tel Nos. (044)691-3330

For Residents of South Luzon Area:

HR/Administration Division—Regional Office
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna
Tel Nos. (049)981-4576

District 1—Batangas/Cavite
Mahabang Parang, Batangas City
Tel Nos. (043)300-3591 or (043)300-3592

District 2—Laguna/Quezon
Barangay Real, Calamba City
Tel Nos. (049)545-1915 or (049)834-0158

District 3—Bicol Area
Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay
Tel Nos. (052)824-1102/07 or (052)824-7974

For Residents of Visayas Area:

HR/Administration Division—Regional Office
Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City
Tel Nos. (032)343-9815/9816

District 1—Panay Area
Zone III, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City
Tel Nos. (033)336-1489 or (033)337-8023

District 3—Leyte-Samar Area
Barangay Milagro, Ormoc City
Tel Nos. (053)561-0140

District 4—Negros Area
Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Tel Nos. (034)435-4418 or (034)708-6988

For Residents of Mindanao Area:

HR/Administration Division—Regional Office
Ma. Cristina, Iligan City
Tel Nos. (063)223-6612/6613

District 1—Northwestern Mindanao Area
Rizal Avenue, San Pedro, Pagadian City
Tel Nos. (062)214-1856 or (062)214-1671

District 2—Lanao Area
Overton, Fuentes, Iligan City
Tel Nos. (063)221-6133/6134/6136

District 3—Northcentral Mindanao Area
Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos. (088)227-23716/23744

District 4—Northeastern Mindanao Area
J. C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City
Tel Nos. (085)815-2178, 342-8293, or 225-2147

District 5—Southeastern Mindanao Area
3rd Floor, D&G Bldg., corner Yellowville & Sampaguita
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Selected candidates will handle checking of entries of sales and purchase orders; assist in preparation of monthly schedules of accounts for financial statement report; reconcile and monitor inventory; check and verify monthly inventory reports of warehouses; prepare bank reconciliation report; conduct audit on specific areas of operations and petty cash disbursement.

Male/Female, 25-35 yrs. old. Accountancy Graduate preferably CPA or taken up review. At least 2 years experience in audit and able to establish and implement audit guidelines and policies; computer literate and exposed to computerized accounting system. Ability to communicate in Chinese an advantage but not required.

PURCHASERS (BUYER) - 3

Selected candidates will handle canvassing and purchasing of items; negotiate for best discounts and terms; regularly update price list from suppliers; prepare all purchasing documents and receiving reports; coordinate and communicate with suppliers and concerned departments on the delivery of items; implement policies and control measures relating to purchase transactions.

Female, 25-32 yrs. old, preferably graduate of Business Mgmt, Accountancy or Marketing w/ at least 1 yr. relevant work experience as purchaser. **Must have good outsourcing skills and good in oral communication skills in English and Chinese.** Honest, hardworking, team player with leadership skills and can work under pressure; computer proficient in MS Office.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR VP FINANCE - 1

Selected candidate will work with the VP-Finance in setting up and maintaining a system that ensures controls and implementation of policies in all financial activities related to sales, purchasing, cash transactions, disbursement, and payments. Handle checking and verification of petty cash disbursements, sales order/invoices and purchase orders; communicate/coordinate with accounting, purchasers, warehouse and other departments.

Female, 25-35 yrs. old. Business/Finance/Accountancy Graduate with at least 2 yrs. relevant work experience. **Must be good in Math, proficient in MS Office and can communicate proficiently in English and Chinese.**

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS - 3

Selected candidates will assist Manager in the research, drafting, and preparation of project briefs as well as coordination in the timely implementation of company projects; handle admin tasks such as organize schedules; organize and proper filing of all files, assist in preparation of communications such as agendas for meetings, presentation materials, various letters and correspondence.

Female, 25-32 yrs. old. Must have a degree in Marketing, Communications or Journalism; **EXCELLENT oral and written English skills** and interpersonal and communications skills; must be very organized and detail-oriented with ability to multi-task; proactive and flexible, discrete and trustworthy. Must be proficient with MS Office. Knowledge of Fukien or Mandarin an advantage but not required.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS - 3

Selected candidates will be tasked to oversee maintenance and continuous upgrades of existing programs and troubleshoot as necessary; develop new programs to enhance and improve overall operations for the company, ensure and maintain security of all systems and company data; suggest/propose improvements to existing company technology operations and developments.

Male/Female, at least 2 years experience in application programming and system analysis. Must be proficient in Delphi 5 (or higher), Interbase and/or MySQL. Must be proactive, resourceful, and detail oriented; able to multi-task and requires minimal supervision. Professional and of upstanding moral character.

PRODUCT SPECIALISTS/MANAGERS - 3

Selected candidates will be responsible for setting up, motivating, and managing highly productive sales force to achieve business targets; formulating and implementing product promotion and sales programs; organizing and conducting training and product presentations.

- Industrial/Architectural Lighting
- Wires, Cables & Accessories
- PLC and Automation Controls & Components / Safety Switches

Male/Female, not more than 38 years old, Engineering/Marketing/Business Management Graduate. At least 2 years experience with solid sales and marketing performance record in relevant industry. Must have strong leadership qualities and be a good team player. Excellent communication skills, hardworking, trustworthy, computer proficient in MS Office applications. Ability to communicate effectively in Chinese would be an advantage.

Interested applicants are invited to apply personally with comprehensive resume, TOR, employment certificates and colored photo (2 x 2) or e-mail application to **hrd@zenithinternational.ph**

Le Mar Ben Classic Condominium
676 Florentino Torres Street corner Soler, Sta. Cruz, Manila
(Back of National Bookstore-Avenida Branch) 733-83-55 to 56
Look for Mr. Angelo P. Villanueva / Ms. Ruby Balmes

Project Management Budget Officer

Responsibilities

The position provides analytical, technical and administrative support to the Head, Central Services Section (CSS), Director, Solution Delivery and other professional staff, and supervises and coordinates the work activities of the local staff team for the preparation, monitoring and reporting on the Information Systems and Technology Strategy 2004-2009 (ISTS II) capital budget and procurement tasks.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Head, CSS and Director, Solution Delivery, Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in Business Administration or Management, and professional qualification as a Certified Public Accountant; preferably with post-graduate degree.
- at least 6 years experience in planning and budget analysis, or financial/cost accounting, preferably in a public sector development organization.
- familiarity with all aspects of the operations of ADB (operational and administrative) in order to provide support to professional staff and guidance to other local staff.
- well-developed knowledge and understanding of relevant business administration, operational policies relevant work program and budget concepts, procedures and practices.
- proficiency in computer systems and various computer software used in multilateral institutions.
- demonstrated conceptual ability to use knowledge of theory or different past trends or situations to look at current situations, and apply and modify complex learned concepts or methods appropriately.
- proven ability to conduct independent research by analyzing relationships among several parts of a problem or situation; ability to break down a complex task into manageable parts in a systematic way, recognizing several likely causes of events, or several consequences of actions; ability to generally anticipate obstacles and think ahead about next steps.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-NO06-144(4)-OIST** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **29 September 2006**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

Assistant Economics and Statistics Analyst

Responsibilities

The position, under the supervision of the Specialist in charge, provides administrative and technical support in economic analysis, maintenance of the Division's statistical database system, production and preparation of publications and reports, and administration of technical assistance projects in developing member countries (DMCs).

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to designated professional staff in the Development Indicators and Policy Research Division (ERDI).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- At least five years' work experience in the field of economics/statistics.
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of micro and macro economics, econometrics and statistical methods, including economic trends and indicators for research.
- Excellent knowledge in computer programming, spreadsheets and graphics software and in the use of statistical packages/software like Statistical Analysis System (SAS), for the manipulation and analysis of data.
- Good oral and written communication skills and good team player.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-227(4)-ERDI** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **29 September 2006**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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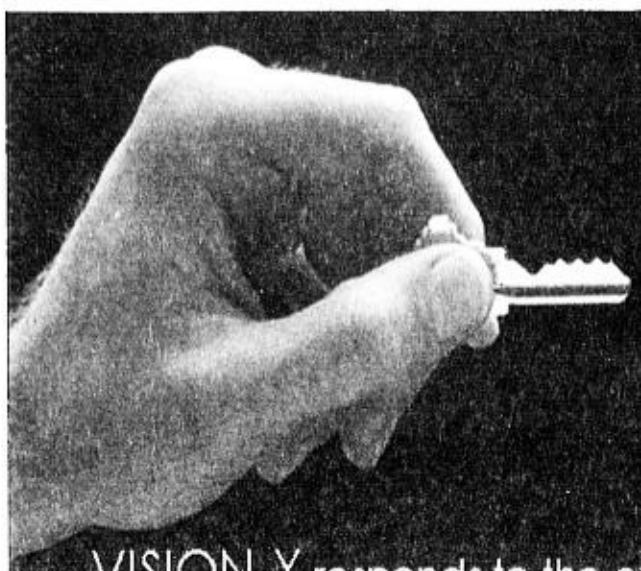

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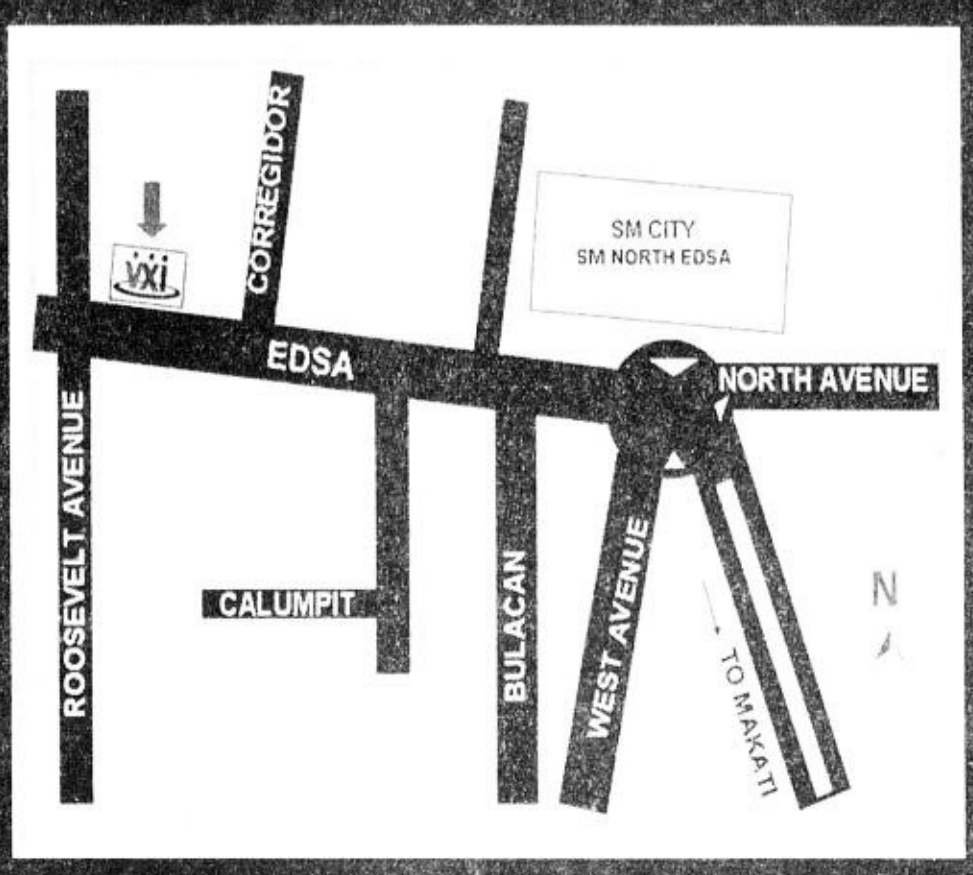

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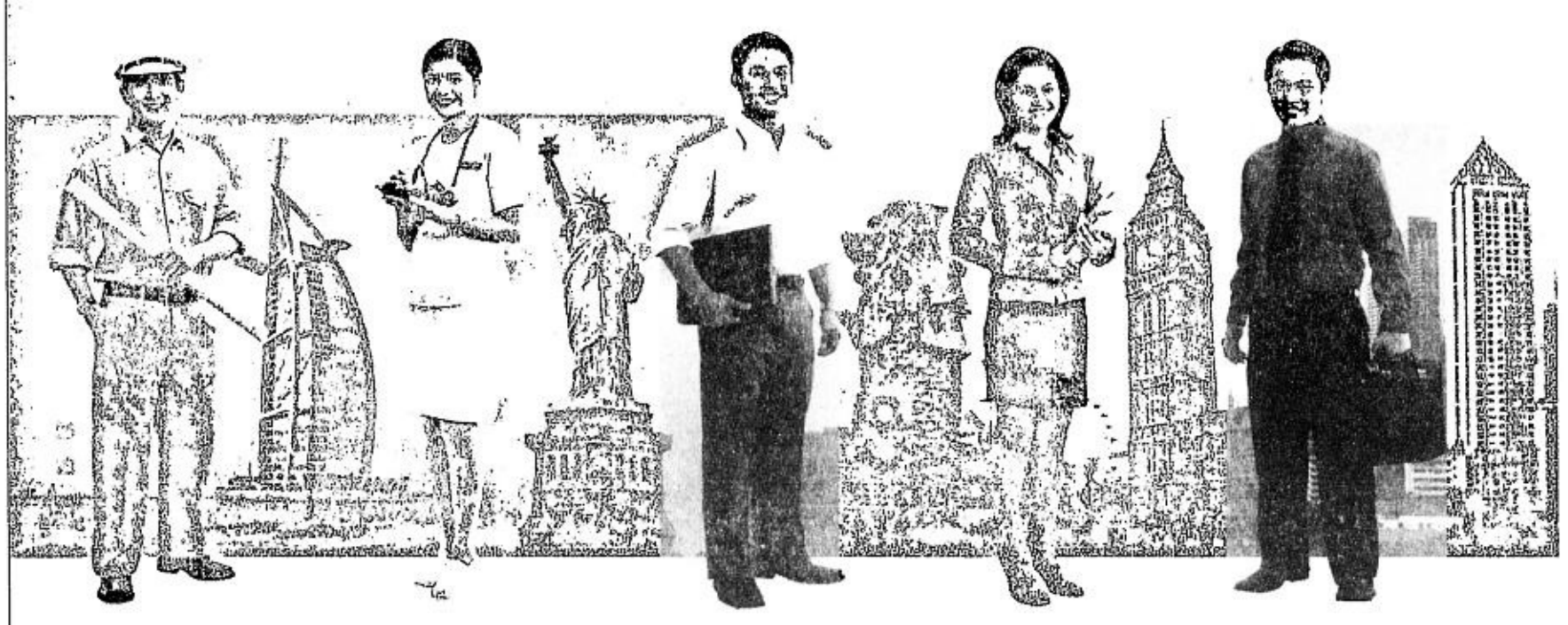

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FOR FOREIGN LICENSED O.T.'S (educated outside USA).....
NBCOT has set a DEADLINE on *DECEMBER 31, 2006* to hand in their application for the certification examination. After this date, it will be difficult to be licensed in the USA as OT without POST-BACCALAUREATE DEGREE.

**** H-1 B visas will open again on April 2007 (early deployment) but only NPTE & NBCOT PASSERS will be processed ****

AMEHAN INTERNATIONAL JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES (POEA license #: 257-LB-091803-R) IN COOPERATION OF THEIR U.S. PRINCIPAL , *Ms. Fe Arellano Hanvivatpong*, RN, President of Ultimate Care, Inc., (a U.S. based company who has successfully placed over 2,000 Filipino medical professional all over the USA since 1987) are prepared to explain to you in details the following:

1. How to be processed for H-1 B visas on April 2007 and arrive in the USA October 2007 (To earn minimum of: $28 per hour and more.)
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amehan@globelines.com.ph

AIJPS

Cebu:
9-2 N Escario Cor Tojong Sts
Cebu City 6000
Tel Nos: 032-2318890 to 91
amehan@pldtdsl.net

Final Job Interview with U.S. Employers
CEBU ..... October 10&11, 2006
MANILA ..... October 12&13, 2006

BE A PART OF OUR ORGANIZATION

An Environment-friendly Company engaged in Forestry, Banana and Agro-Forestry development is in need of the following positions:

Banana Division Group Manager
- Male
- Degree Holder and computer literate
- Must have at least five (5) years experience in managing a Banana plantation
- Result oriented and can work under pressure. Must be a good team player
- Willing to work in the hinterland barangays within the province of Bukidnon

Security Officer
- Male, 35-40 years old
- Degree Holder and Computer literate
- Preferably with military experience (former Scout Ranger) or possesses the capacity and leadership to handle the Company's Security force
- Willing to work in the hinterland barangays within the province of Bukidnon

Rubber Plantation Manager
- Male
- Degree Holder and Computer literate
- Must have a thorough knowledge in all facets of running the affairs of Rubber plantation operations
- Must have at least three (3) years supervisory experience in the Rubber Plantation development and cultural management
- Result oriented and can work under pressure. Must be a good team player
- Willing to work in the hinterland barangays within the province of Bukidnon

Livestocks Production Manager
- Male/Female
- Degree Holder of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.)
- Computer literate
- Must have at least one (1) year supervisory experience in the Livestock production and management
- Result oriented and can work under pressure. Must be a good team player
- Willing to work in the hinterland barangays within the province of Bukidnon

Plantation Coaches
- Male
- Applicant must have a thorough knowledge of managing logistics in the farm. Computer literate
- Must have at least three (3) years supervisory experience in the Banana plantation development and management
- Experience in the field of organic Banana farming is an advantage
- Applicant must have the capacity to train farm workers
- Willing to work in the hinterland barangays within the province of Bukidnon or nearby provinces

Executive Secretary
- Female
- With pleasing personality
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point
- 22-25 years old
- Must be a degree holder
- With at least 2 years experience in secretarial works
- Good communication skills in the English language both written and oral
- Hardworking and willing to work on extended hours

Company Nurse
- Female
- 22-26 years old. Computer literate
- Must be a graduate of reputable school and a board passer
- With at least 1-2 years experience in a reputable hospital
- Willing to work in the hinterland barangays within the province of Bukidnon and nearby provinces

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive curriculum vitaé and credentials not later than September 25, 2006 to:

HRD MANAGER
HAPPY JACK ORGANIC CORPORATION
Email add: esalcedo@mosserco.com
 # 39 Sputnit Street, Doña Vicenta Village
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Or Call: Mae at 522-7777 loc. 158 (South Projects)
Agnes at 373-8888 loc. 287 (North Projects)
www.moldex.com.ph

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

(Private Sector)

An international development organization has an immediate need for a PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST who will serve as the Private Sector Development Specialist in designing and managing private sector activities of the organization. He/She will work in collaboration with the entire team and will serve as a member of the Private Sector sub-team. The incumbent will be responsible for promoting sound decision making concerning the provision of maternal and child health, family planning services, as well as supporting HIV/AIDS/STD, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases like SARS and Avian Influenza, and tuberculousis prevention utilizing private sector approcahes. S/he will establish goals for action, monitor progress, and recommend changes as needed. The incumbent will be responsible for evaluating and monitoring public sector policies that affect the private sector; and, in keeping all team members and stakeholders informed of the latest changes in national and local level laws and systems relative to the private sector delivery of maternal and child health, family planning, infectious diseases and other public health services and products. S/he will also serve as the Activity Manager of various contracts/agreements/grants for the implementation of the private sector activities. This will involve market analysis that will help determine the right products and services to be introduced by the private sector. The incumbent will also coordinate with senior government and private sector officials, and will backstop other Specialists whose work includes activities that have substantial private sector involvement. The candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in a field relevant to commercial health systems such as health or hospital administration, public and business administration, marketing, economics and other related fields, Ph.D., M.A., MBA, MS, and other post-graduate degrees will be considered, but appointment will normally require demonstrated ability to perform at the senior level.
- Six to eight years of progressively responsible, professional level experience in private health care institutions or health related commercial activities, at least five years of which, is on marketing of services and products.
- Excellent command of English (both written and oral), proficiency in the use of computer, ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations, strong interpersonal and teamwork skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than September 22, 2006** to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

INQUIRER JOB MARKET
offers more job opportunities in the fourth quarter!

Watch out for two of this year's biggest job fairs from INQUIRER!

INQUIRER JOB MARKET OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT EXPO
October 23 and 24 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall

INQUIRER JOB MARKET EMPLOYMENT EXPO
November 20 to 22 at the Glorietta Activity Center

Get a chance to work abroad in this year's INQUIRER JOB MARKET OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT EXPO on October 23 and 24 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall.

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THE PLAZA BLDG., BERHTAPHIL II, Jose Abad Ave., Special Economic Zone, Clark Field, Pampanga. Mondays - Fridays, Time: 8am – 6 pm
EXPORT BANK PLAZA, 9th flr, Buendia cor., Chino Roces Ave., Makati. Mondays – Fridays, Time: 9am – 6 pm.
Alternately, you may e-mail your resume to HR_Manila@suth.com

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JOB Market

Inquirer Job Market offers more job opportunities in the fourth quarter! Watch out for two of this year's biggest job fairs from Inquirer!

Inquirer Job Market Overseas Employment Expo October 23 and 24 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall

Inquirer Job Market Employment Expo November 20 to 22 at the Glorietta Activity Center

The **PEACE AND EQUITY FOUNDATION (PEF)** is a non-stock, non-profit organization that provides development financing to empower poor communities to attain their desired quality of human life. It supports best practices as well as innovative and trailblazing projects for basic services, livelihood and employment, and social capital development to reduce poverty.

The Foundation is searching for qualified and committed individuals who are willing and able to make a difference in other people's lives by actively participating in the Foundation's pursuit of its mission. For details about PEF, please visit our website: www.peacefdn.org

FINANCE MANAGER

(for full time employment)

Key Responsibilities

The **Finance Manager** ensures the fulfillment of all financial functions, specifically in the areas of financial management, accounting, budgeting, cash management, and investment monitoring.

Minimum Qualifications

- Certified Public Accountant
- At least five years managerial or senior supervisory experience in financial management
- Preferably with at least two years work exposure in a non-profit organization

Competencies Required

- Knowledge in financial management, investments, local and international accounting standards as applied to non-profit organizations, taxation requirements and other government compliances
- SKILLS SET : Managerial and leadership skills, effective written and oral communication, and can report meaningful financial information
- The Finance Manager that we are looking for should be meticulous and proactive; at ease with multi- tasking approaches and a good organizational team worker.

To Apply : Please forward your letter of application, resumé and academic records to:

The Screening Committee
(c/o Human Resource & General Services Unit)
Peace and Equity Foundation
69 Esteban Abada Street, Brgy. Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108
Telephone: (02) 426-84-02; Telefax: (02) 426-84-02 local 102
Email Address: **peacefdn@peacefdn.org**

Deadline for Application: 23 September 2006

(Only Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

WANTED
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- ☐ Female, age 20-28
- ☐ college graduate from reputable school (business/com/sci/ other related courses)
- ☐ diligent, honest, with sense of loyalty
- ☐ pleasant disposition & assertive
- ☐ attractive salary for qualified applicants

Interested parties, email cascade_cc@yahoo.com.ph
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headstrong
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is looking for qualified candidates for the following positions...

Java/J2EE Developers

- Graduates of BS Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Math or any related course
- Strong object oriented programming skills with experience with Java, JSPs, XML, OOD and UML
- Preferably with at least 2- 3 years experience in actual application development, analysis, design, construction, and implementation
- Extensive Java programming experience in a client server environment
- Database Development experience (Oracle preferred, SQL Server a plus)
- Additional Programming experience in XML, XSL, SOAP
- Experience with EJB and JSP/Servlets
- Windows and UNIX development programming
- Solid programming techniques and unit testing required
- Experience with Web Application Server (WebLogic or JBOSS a plus)
- Experience with Ant and Eclipse is desired
- Must be a team player and able to lead a team as well
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, fast learner and possesses excellent communication

Please send your resume to the
15th Floor Export Bank Plaza Bldg.
Sen. Gil Puyat corner
Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

or email to
recruitment@headstrong.com

Visit us on September 20-21, 2006 at SM Megamall, Megatrade Hall 1, from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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MOVE TO GREATER HEIGHTS WITH ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING RESEARCH ORGANIZATION!

A prestigious and leading research agency affiliated with the largest customized research organization in the world invites aggressive and self-motivated individual to fill the following post:

A. STATISTICAL SERVICES MANAGER

- Must possess a graduate degree in Statistics/Applied Statistics or graduate degree in a course with heavy emphasis on Statistics such as Operations Research or Econometrics
- Experience with SAS programming is essential
- Knowledge of various bivariate and multivariate statistical techniques, including factor analysis, analysis of variance, multiple regression, logit, discriminant function analysis, cluster analysis and conjoint analysis
- Must be a good communicator and be able to write and present statistical findings about complex subject matter in general business terms.

B. SENIOR RESEARCH EXECUTIVE

- Has working experience in the selection and application of appropriate market research techniques, and must demonstrate a good understanding of their strategic and commercial implications
- Capable of dealing with corporate clients and is confident to analyze and present research results to senior management
- Natural team player, possess leadership and coordinating skills in implementing research projects (i.e., working with support groups from other units of the Company)
- Has 3-4 years working experience doing or coordinating researchers-from another research agency, an ad agency, business or economic think-tanks; or from using market research at the client-user side
- Graduate of Behavioral Science, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research, or Economics with above-average scholastic standing
- Adept with data, excellent written and oral communication skills.

C. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Not more than 25 years old, graduate of Psychology, Anthropology, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing. Fresh graduates are welcome.
- Familiar with or has basic knowledge of research (design, implementation, data processing and analysis).
- Adept with data, analytical, excellent written and oral communication skills.

The role of the above individuals will be varied and challenging; within a friendly team environment; and it also offers very good career prospects.

If you are interested, please send your CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
PHILIPPINE SURVEY & RESEARCH CENTER, INC. – RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
PSRC Building, Calbayog cor. Kanlaon Sts.
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City

E-mail address: research@psrc-ri.com.ph

P. J. LHUILLIER GROUP OF COMPANIES

P.J. Lhuillier Group of Companies, a dynamic business company engaged in financial services, retail and trade, and sports recreation, is inviting qualified and competent candidates to fill in key positions in the organization.

MANAGERIAL

Area Operations Manager (Butuan, Surigao)
- Graduate of any business-related course, preferably with Master's Degree units
- With in-depth knowledge in Pawnshop Operations
- Analytical, results-oriented, and has strong marketing orientation
- Above average leadership and interpersonal skills

Accounting Department Manager (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy preferably with Master's Degree units
- A Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- With at least five (5) years work experience in general accounting on a managerial level

Sales Manager (Makati)
- Graduate of any four (4)-year college course, preferably in Marketing or Business Management preferably with MBA
- At least three (3) years work experience in a sales management capacity, preferably within the hospitality industry
- At least five (5) years experience as sales representative
- Excellent analytical and conceptual thinking
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills

Room and Housekeeping Manager (Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel)
- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management
- At least three (3) years work experience in hotel management
- At least 1 year work experience in room and housekeeping
- Excellent leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills

SUPERVISORY

Accounting Supervisor (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least two (2) years work experience in related field
- Good supervisory and interpersonal skills
- Above average analytical skills
- Computer literate

IT Audit Supervisor (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy, Electronics and Computer Engineering or Computer Science
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Information System Auditor (CISA)
- At least two (2) years Audit work experience, preferably in risk-based audits

Training Supervisor (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S./A.B. Psychology, B.S. Human Resources Management/Personnel Management, or any Social Science course
- At least three (3) to five (5) years work experience in handling behavioral training (TNA, design, implementation and evaluation program)
- Highly-motivated, assertive and can work under pressure

Creatives Supervisor (Makati)
- Graduate of B.A. Fine Arts, Advertising or any related course
- At least three (3) years work experience as a Graphic Artist or with supervisory experience in an Advertising Agency
- Updated with design softwares and familiar with IBM or PC-based programs
- Excellent oral & written communication skills
- Excellent customer service
- Strong leadership skills, Results-oriented, patient & flexible

Jewelry Sales Supervisor (NCR)
- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business-related course
- At least three (3) years supervisory experience in the jewelry store business
- At least one (1) year retail sales/marketing/customer service experience in a supervisory capacity
- Honest, flexible, hardworking and with above average selling skills

Dining Supervisor (Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel)
- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management
- At least one (1) year experience in a supervisory or senior staff capacity of a food service establishment
- Knowledgeable in hotel/restaurant operations and can handle events management
- Strong customer relation skills

Front Office Supervisor (Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel)
- Graduate of any four (4)-year college course, preferably Hotel and Restaurant Management
- At least two (2) years experience in front desk operations
- Strong customer relation skills

Store Supervisor (NCR)
- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business-related course
- At least one (1) year retail sales/marketing/customer service experience in a supervisory capacity
- Honest, flexible, hardworking and with above average selling skills

TECHNICAL STAFF

Accounting Staff (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- With or without working experience
- Hardworking and willing to work overtime
- Computer literate
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Auditor (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Business Development Specialist (Makati)
- Graduate of any business-related course, preferably BS Accountancy
- With working knowledge in Financial Statement Analysis
- With at least six (6) months work experience in related field

Business Tie-Up Analyst (Makati)
- Graduate of any business-related course, preferably Marketing
- At least one (1) year work experience
- Conceptual and analytical thinker
- Adept with figures
- Good in oral and written communication skills
- Results-oriented, flexible and innovative

Customer Relations Specialist (Makati)
- Graduate of any business-related course or any behavioral science course
- With at least five (5) years work experience, preferably in a Call Center Industry
- With skills in Basic Telephone Handling
- With average problem solving skills and exceptional customer service orientation
- With excellent communications skills
- Can work under pressure

Customer Service Coordinator (Makati)
- Graduate of any four (4)-year course, preferably Mass Communication or equivalent
- With at least one (1) year work experience in customer service-oriented field
- With excellent oral and written communication skills and with good presentation skills
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications
- With good interpersonal skills

Business Training Coordinator (Makati)
- Graduate of any business-related course or Social Science
- At least one (1) year work experience in training
- Excellent command in English and Filipino
- Computer literate
- With good interpersonal relationship and work organization

IT Programmer (Makati)
- Graduate of a 4-year Computer Programming course or any related field
- With at least 2 years of extensive experience in Visual Basic 6 programming
- With at least 1 year experience in SQL Programming, MS SQL Server , TCP/IP, Client Server Environment, and Systems Analysis and Design
- Knowledgeable in Crystal Report tool
- Must be single, male and willing to work long hours
- With excellent communication skills
- Willing to work on a project basis

Information Technology Assistant (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao)
- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Programming or Computer Engineering
- At least one (1) year work experience in related field
- Advanced computer literacy
- With knowledge in PC hardware/software troubleshooting & dial-up networking

Human Resources Staff (Makati, Pangasinan, Cebu, Bacolod)
- Graduate of B.S./A.B. Psychology, B.S. Human Resources Management/Personnel Management, any Social Science course
- With working knowledge on Psychometrics and Psychological testing
- Advanced computer literacy
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Administrative Assistant (NCR)
- Graduate of any business-related course, Office Administration, Mass Communication, any four (4)-year college course or B.S. Secretarial
- At least one (1) year work experience as a Secretary or Administrative Assistant
- Good interpersonal skills
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Flexible and reliable

Branch (Pawnshop) Personnel (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)
- Graduate of any business-related course or any four (4)-year college course with at least 6 units in Management
- With or without working experience
- With pleasing personality and of good moral character
- Computer literate

Jewelry Sales Staff (NCR)
- Graduate of any four (4)-year college course
- Preferably with experience in retail sales or merchandising
- At least 5'3 in height
- With pleasing personality, good communication skills
- Computer literate

Driver / Messenger (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)
- At least 2nd year college, Auto Mechanic, Automotive or any four (4)-year college course
- With professional driver's license
- Has basic skills in vehicle troubleshooting
- Punctual, dependable and trustworthy

Interested individuals may send or handcarry their resumé, recent 2X2 photo, and photocopy of transcript of records, Diploma and certificate of graduation, NBI clearance, police clearance, Barangay clearance, letter of application to:

MANPOWER PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Human Resources Division
3/F PJL Corporate Centre, 1782 Nicanor Garcia cor. Candelaria Sts., 1200 Makati City
You may also email your applications to mpr_podd@pjlhuillier.com.
For applicants in Visayas and Mindanao, you may send your applications to the following Satellite Offices:

Corporate Services Group Satellite Offices

Cebu
Mr. Lodegario T. Rollan
Manpower Planning & Recruitment Department
Cebuana Lhuillier Regional Office
PJL2 No. 6 Acasia St., Lahug, Cebu City

Bacolod
Mr. Lodegario T. Rollan
Manpower Planning & Recruitment Department
Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop
San Sebastian St., 6100 Bacolod City

Davao
Ms. Norhatia T. Petilos
Manpower Planning & Recruitment Department
147 McArthur Highway Corner Juna Subdivision
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Tel. No. 931-8101 to 07
http://www.dswd.gov.ph

KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project is in need of a

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER III

to be assigned at the National Project Management Office, DSWD Central Office, Batasan, Quezon City. Below are the Qualification Standards, Tasks and Responsibilities, and Salary Rate of the position:

Qualification Standards:
1. A graduate of any social science discipline;
2. A Master's Degree or units is an advantage;
3. Strong analytical and writing skills;
4. Strong competency in MS Excel;
5. Experience in research and M&E work a definite advantage;

Responsibilities and Tasks:
1. Be responsible for the review, analysis, consolidation, and preparation of reports;
2. Manage the data collected from the field;
3. Provide coaching to Regional M&E Officers;
4. Facilitate and coordinate M&E activities;
5. Monitor the installation and functionality of the Grievance Redress System.

Salary Rate:

The successful applicant will receive Php 18,578.00 per month.

Interested applicants may submit their Application Letter and Resumé to Ms. Rushell D. Ronda of Career Planning and Development Division (CPDD) on or before **September 25, 2006.** Contact Nos. 951-2807, 931-8101-07 local 101 or 102.

Inquirer Job Market Employment Expo November 20 to 22 at the Glorietta Activity Center

Get a chance to work abroad in this year's Inquirer Job Market Overseas Employment Expo on October 23 and 24 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall.

Libyan Labor Minister in town

THE COUNTRY WELCOMED recently the Libyan Labor Minister, His Excellency Matugh Mohamed Matugh Salem, who is on an official visit from Sept. 14 to 16, 2006 to boost the vibrant bilateral labor relations between Libya and the Philippines.

Acting Labor Secretary Danilo P. Cruz said that the Libyan Labor Minister's visit to the Philippines comes closely on the heels of the earlier visit made by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, to Libya last July 16 to 18.

Cruz said that during the said visit, an agreement between Libya and the Philippines was forged, establishing the parameters of cooperation for the deployment of skilled overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to the Libyan economy.

Cruz said that Secretary Brion, who is currently representing the Philippines in the ongoing United Nations' High Level Dialogue on Migration in New York City, USA, has hailed the moves of Libya, headed by Muammar Khaddafy, to absorb more OFWs required in the growth of its economy.

"Indeed, Libya, where some 8,000 OFWs are productively engaged at present, is one of the Middle Eastern economies expected to boost its status further as an emerging OFW market, and open up more opportunities for highly skilled OFWs to meet its economy's growing requirements," Cruz said.

He added that "the points of interest in the course of the ongoing Libyan Labor Minister's visit shall include the training of Libyan nurses by Filipinos, as well as the deployment of OFW-nurses to Libya."

Labor Undersecretary for International Affairs Manuel G. Imson officially welcomed Labor Minister Salem, and his official delegation, after they touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Libya, through Tokyo.

Following his arrival, the Libyan Labor Minister paid a courtesy call on the Office of Acting Labor Secretary Cruz, as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs. He was also tentatively scheduled to call on Vice President Noli De Castro, as well as Senate president Manuel Villar.

RP calls on ASEM member-countries to invest on OFWs

THE PHILIPPINE HAS CALLED on the European Union (EU) and other Asian countries to put in place collaborative efforts investing in the training and protection of migrant workers, including the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Speaking at the 1st ASEM (the Asia-Europe Meeting) Labor and Employment Ministers Meeting held in Potsdam, Germany recently, Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion asked the ASEM member-countries to invest on the migrant workers, in view of the fact that both labor-sending and labor receiving nations share in the benefits of their services. Brion made the statement in a bid to promote the employment and welfare of OFWs and other Filipino migrants in host countries overseas. The ASEM is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation among the 25 EU member states; the European Commission; and 13 Asian countries, namely, Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Laos, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The EU is composed of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Irish Republic, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Brion pointed out the need for both labor-sending countries and destination countries to respond to migration problems brought about by globalization by sharing with the pains of migration, which he said, would maximize the gains and contributions of migrant workers to ASEM economies. "Let us cooperate to spread the pain that would support the gains," Brion told the ASEM members as he enjoined them to decide on the investments that should be accorded the migrants.

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Telecommunications Manager (Avaya) • Network Engineer (Cisco)
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Software Developer • IT Administrator

HUMAN RESOURCES
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Senior Employee Relations Officer • Employee Programs Officer
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Employee Relations Assistant

FINANCE
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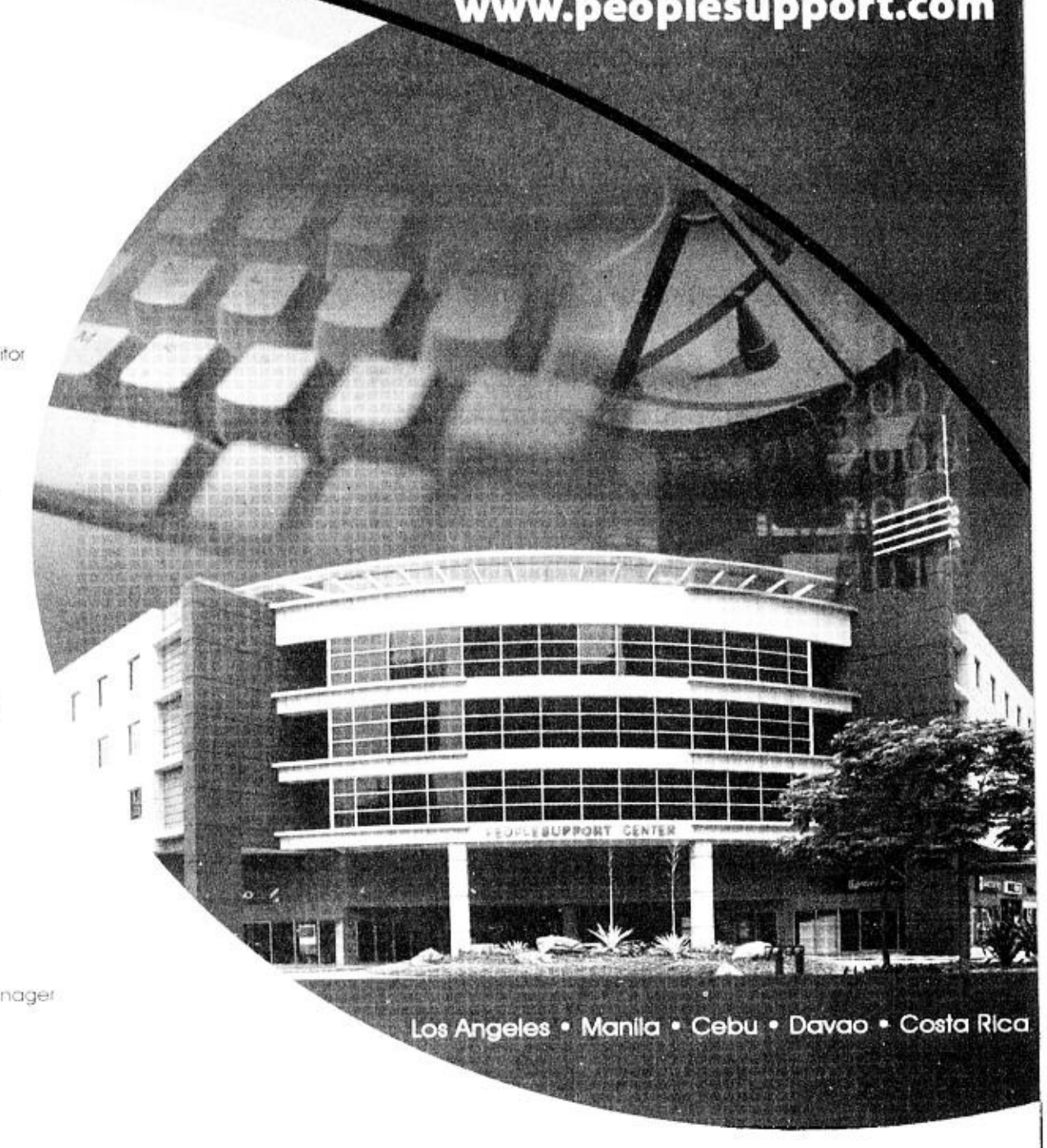
Timekeeping Assistant • Payroll Assistant

PURCHASING
Purchasing Manager • Asset Officer

LEGAL
Senior Attorney



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- ✓ will work as Purchasing Staff

COST ACCOUNTING STAFF

- ✓ graduate of BS Accountancy / Finance / Banking or equivalent
- ✓ with at least 2 years of working experience in the related field
- ✓ trustworthy and hardworking

* All applicants must be willing to work in Batangas.
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* Can relate very well with people at all levels

Interested applicants are requested to send their resumé and TOR with recent 2x2 ID picture at the above address or please email your resumé to:
sfphr@sumibe.co.jp.

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Requirements:
1. Graduate of any I.T/Computer related courses
2. With at least 1-2 years related work experience
3. Excellent English communication skills
4. Direct capabilities to repair hardware and maintain integrity of a server and its intranet system

HOUSEKEEPER – Knowledge in general housekeeping works

Requirements:
1. Minimum of 3 years experience in general housekeeping works
2. Good oral English skills

TRAVEL AGENT – Must possess a minimum of 2-3 years experience in a major travel industry. Coordinate abroad travel schedule including airline, hotel and rental cars for the company.

Requirements:
1. A graduate of any related degree for the position
2. Good oral and written English skills
3. Strong client/customer network and service skills
4. Travel Agent connections

TRAVEL STAFF – Must possess a minimum of 2-3 years work experience in a major travel industry (hotel, airline, resort, rental car) providing support.

Requirements:
1. A graduate of Tourism, Hotel and Restaurant Management or any related field
2. Good oral and written English communication skills
3. Strong client/customer network and service skills

UTILITY PERSONNEL – Handle office maintenance, cleaning and care along with supporting staff in daily function

Requirements:
1. Minimum of 1 year experience
2. Good oral English skills

RECEPTIONIST

Requirements:
1. Female 21 to 30 years old and a college degree holder in any field
2. With good visual impact and pleasing personality
3. Above average communication and interpersonal skills

COMPANY DRIVER – Must possess a valid Professional Driver's License

Requirements:
1. Should be 30 years old and above
2. Minimum 3-5 years driving experience for light/ medium vehicles
3. Knowledge of Manila routes and places
4. Must have knowledge in trouble shooting problem
5. Good oral and written English skills

Only well-qualified candidates should apply with a comprehensive resumé and recent photograph to:

FOR E-MAIL : **phil_sgi@yahoo.com.ph**
Fax resumé (telefax) : **7592349**

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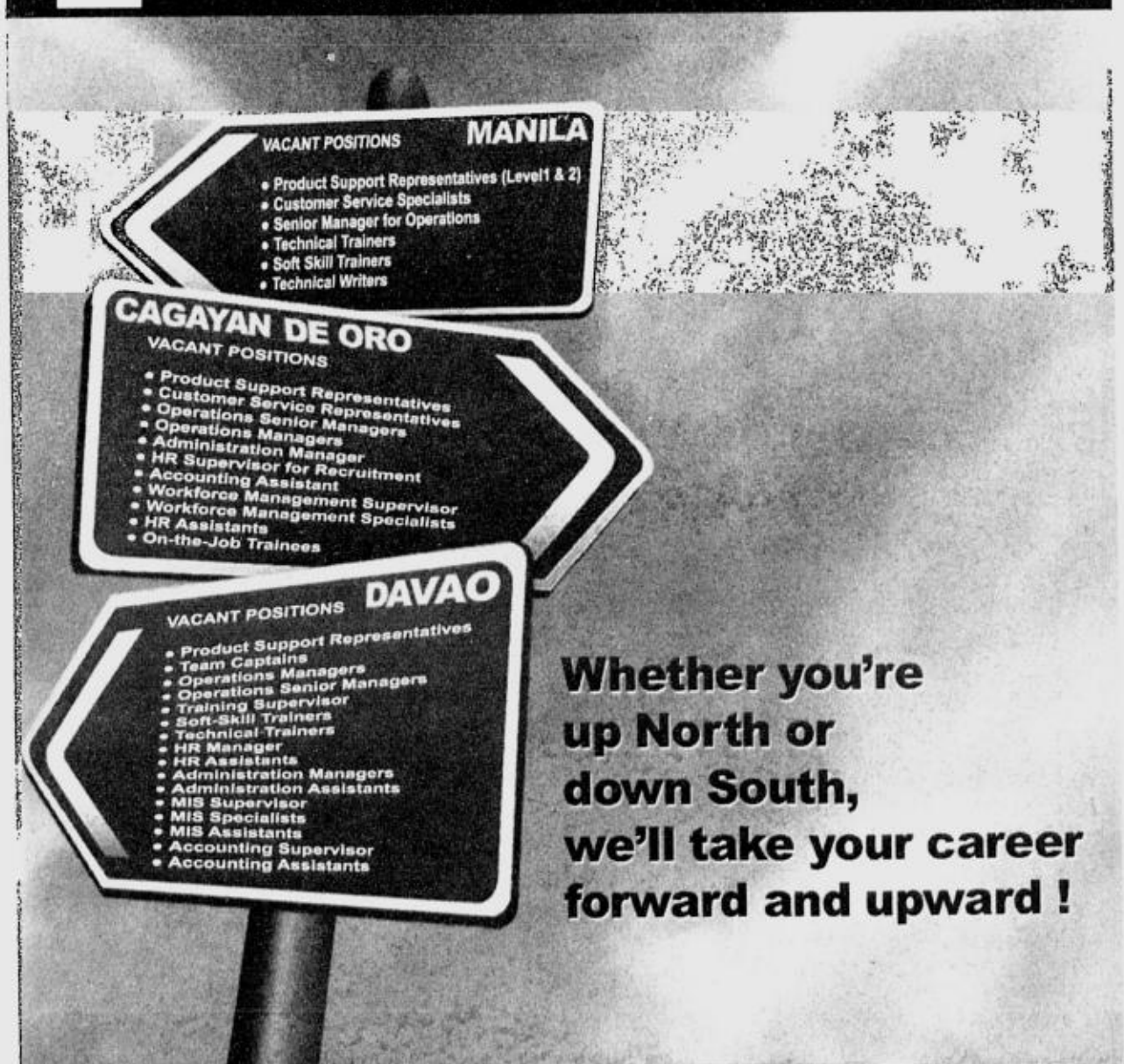

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• Email: recruitment_cdo@link2support.com

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Term of Reference

UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity

UNDP

Location	:	Bangkok, Thailand
Vacancy Type	:	External Vacancy
Application Deadline	:	30 September 2006
Type of Contract	:	200 Series
Post Number	:	11962
Post Level	:	ICS-11 (L4)
Languages Required	:	English
Duration of Initial Contract	:	1 year

Background

As one of the three implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP oversees a portfolio of projects in the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, international waters, Ozone depleting substance phase-out, land degradation, and persistent organic pollutants. The cumulative value of UNDP's GEF portfolio is valued at nearly US$5.0 billion. These projects are implemented through UNDP's network of more than 130 country offices located in developing countries as well as numerous UN and other agency partners. UNDP's GEF unit is based in UNDP's Bureau of Development Policy (BDP) and is a key part of the Energy and Environment Group (EEG). The GEF Executive Coordinator is also the Deputy Director of the EEG. Given the highly specialized nature of the GEF Program, UNDP's GEF unit is organized by focal area, with the Principal Technical Advisor being the team leader within each focal area. Each Principal Technical Advisor leads and supports a team of regionally based UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisors, who in turn support UNDP's country offices and partners in their focal area work in their respective countries. The role of a UNDP GEF Regional Technical Advisor is to support project implementation partners, primarily UNDP country offices but also other UN agencies, governments and inter-governmental organizations, NGO's, co-funders, etc. in the efficient, effective, and high quality delivery of project development and implementation services in one or more focal areas or sub-focal areas, drawing primarily on GEF funds, but also other sources of finance as appropriate.

Duties and Responsibilities

Duties and Functions

Technical support to Country Offices and project proponents through all stages of the project and programming cycle, by responding to requests, including support to:

- identification and development of biodiversity project ideas for admission to the UNDP and GEF pipelines within the overall strategic priorities for the region identified by UNDP and in line with the global strategic priorities articulated by GEF;
- design, preparation, submission and approval of project proposals and requests for project development financing;
- identification and sourcing of technical expertise and support including assisting with the preparation of terms of reference, identifying and evaluating experts, reviewing reports, etc.;
- identification and liaison with potential and actual co-financing agencies and institutions;
- advise Country Offices on inception, contracting and start up of projects including establishment of indicators, benchmarks and work plans;
- supervise implementation through technical advice, participation in Tripartite Project Reviews when needed and in drawing lessons learned for sharing on Knowledge Management (KM) networks;
- provide technical advice and KM on GEF policies and activities to UNDP Regional Service Centres, SURFs, Country Offices, etc.
- debrief Resident Representatives offices of countries in the region of all project development, implementation and monitoring activities of countries in the region.

Participation in GEF technical team through:

- KM networks and regular cluster activities, including regional strategic planning, pipeline management exercises, technical debate within clusters, and development of resource kits and other KM materials;
- participation in cross-Focal Area dialogue, common strategic visioning, mainstreaming, programming, and collaboration within the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) coordinated by the Regional Team Leader (RTL);
- keeping the RTL fully informed of all issues requiring operational support and help in collaborating with the Regional Service Centre;
- standard reporting - including mission reports, Quarterly Operational Reports (QORs), Annual Project Reviews (APRs); Project Implementation Reports (PIRs);
- providing support to evaluation, and capturing and synthesizing lessons and best practices;
- maintaining project information in UNDP-GEF Project Information Management System (PIMS);
- responding to queries regarding project progress, impacts and lessons;
- keeping UNDP-GEF Headquarters informed of trends and issues within the region;
- interacting with the Energy and Environment Group (EEG) of the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) on lessons learned and KM related activities.

Liaison with other agencies and partners:

- establishing and maintaining contact with other GEF Implementing Agencies and Executing Agencies, donors, NGO private sector, etc, to seek strategic partnerships, synergies, coordination and cooperation and to avoid overlap, duplication or conflict;
- reviewing and commenting on proposals to GEF Secretariat from other Implementing and expanded Executing Agencies;
- keeping Executing Agencies, governments, and other partners informed of GEF policies and activities;

Travel:

It is expected that at least 60 days a year will be spent traveling to countries within the region.

Competencies

- Skills in facilitation and coordination, entrepreneurial spirit, and demonstrated ability to work in an independent manner;
- Extensive skills in the policy development processes associated with environment and sustainable development issues;
- Extensive skills with project development, implementation and management (direct project management experience is preferable);

Required Skills and Experience

Post-graduate University degree in biodiversity sciences, environmental sciences, natural resource management, natural resource policy, environmental policy, environmental economics or a closely related field.

Experience/Skills:

- Minimum of 7 years experience working on biodiversity issues in developing countries / countries in transition
- Excellent knowledge of the English language, with exceptional writing, presentation and communication skills;
- Knowledge of other UN and regional languages would be an asset;
- Full computer literacy;
- Experience working in developing countries / countries in transition;
- Working experience in an international organization is an advantage as is knowledge of UNDP and GEF policies and procedures.

Interested candidates should submit a detailed resume and UN Personal History Form (P11) along with a cover letter highlighting relevant skills and experience in regard to the position and clearly stating the position and respective reference number by 30 September 2006. **Women candidates are encouraged to apply.** Kindly send the application to **undp.gef.jobs@undp.org**. For more information, please visit the following site: **http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?job_id=424**

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- Fully conversant in complying with ISO14000, OHSAS 18001 & applicable statutory and regulatory requirements

Draftsperson

- Diploma in Architecture Technology or its equivalent
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Interested applicants, please reply with full resumé, expected salary & contact telephone no. and e-mail address to:

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Apas, Cebu City 6000
Fax No. 032-2310647
E-mail: **belnebria@syntech-phil.com**

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- Excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Good analytical, problem-solving, decision making, process and resolution skills

ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR RECRUITMENT
- 4-6 years experience in Recruitment and Manpower Planning, with 2 years in a leadership role, preferably from a large multinational or a BPO company
- Exposure in HR Consulting and Strategic Planning an advantage
- Highly organized, flexible and results oriented
- Excellent leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills

RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST
- Bachelor's degree holder of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Business Administration, Human Resource Management or equivalent
- 1 year work experience in Recruitment
- With very good English communication skills
- Highly organized, flexible and results oriented
- Can work independently and handle multiple tasks

WEB DEVELOPER
- Bachelor's degree in Engineering (Computer/Telecomm), Computer Science/IT, Business Administration or equivalent
- 2 years experience in Web development using the following: VB.NET, HTML, DHTML, CSS, VB Script, MS SQL and XML/XSL/XSLT
- Experience in MS InfoPath form design and integration with SQL

DOCUMENTUM DEVELOPER
- Bachelor's degree holder of any IT-related course
- 1 year experience with Documentum 5 and with complex XML and Xpath
- Proficient in Java, JSP and J2EE
- 2 years experience with O.O. and Java development
- Knowledge of UNIX scripting and using various open source utilities

NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER (NOC) SPECIALIST
- Graduate of any IT-related course
- Preferably with 3 years work experience
- Must have IT professional certification in any of the following: Cisco, Linux, MCSA/MCSE 2000/2003
- Must have working knowledge in at least 5 of the following: Cisco Routers and Switches, Microsoft Server Systems Administration, MS Exchange, MS Sharepoint, MS Project Server, Citrix Server, MS SQL Server 2000/2005 Database knowledge, Linux Server Administration, EMC Clarion SAN administration, Advanced file, DFS and network security

PROJECT MANAGER
- With at least 1 year supervisory experience from the production industry
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- Bachelor's degree holder of any course
- 2 years experience defining projects using MS Office
- Preferably with experience in working with MS Project Server
- Experience in maintaining long-term and short-term, complex project plans
- PMP certification an advantage
- Excellent English communication skills

PROJECT LIAISON
- Graduate of Management, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Statistics, Computer Science or related courses
- 1 year of supervisory experience in a BPO company or manufacturing industry
- With 1 year exposure in project management
- Programming knowledge is an advantage
- Professors of IT/Business courses are encouraged to apply

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STAFF (PROGRAMMER)
- Graduate of Engineering (Computer/Telecommunication), Computer Science/IT or equivalent
- Required skills: Visual Basic, C/C++, C#, MS SQL Server, MS Access, MySQL, ADO, XML
- With experience in JAVA Technologies, .NET Technologies (VB.NET/ C#.NET/ C++.NET/ J#.NET) and Web Technologies (HTML/scripting language/ASP.NET)
- Preferably with one year work experience specializing in IT/Computer-Network/System/Database Administration or its equivalent

QUALITY OFFICER
- With significant experience in QC/QA processes/ programs
- Must be familiar with fundamental non-voice BPO production processes
- Must have a proven track record on effective execution of projects/initiatives
- Good command of the English language

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- Bachelor's degree holder of any course
- 2-5 years technical writing experience
- 2 years experience in: a) creating complex MS Visio diagrams, knowledge of workflow tools, shapes, and general rules; b) writing policies and procedures that comply with ISO 9000 requirements using MS Word or similar tools; and c) MS Excel, including working with formulas, complex formatting, interdependent worksheets, and charts
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

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- E-submission Support Communicator
- Customer Support Staff
- Quality Specialist
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- Excellent interpersonal communication and leadership skills
- Proficient in computer application
- Preferably male not more than 30 years old

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS SUPERVISOR
- Responsible for handling a wide range of accounting functions including credit control, budget preparation, cash flow management, preparation of monthly and yearly management accounts preparation as well as banking and taxation matters. Providing analysis, reports & advices to the management.
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Minimum 3 years accounting work A/R or A/P
- Proficient in using Microsoft Excel & Word
- Preferably not more than 30 years old / FEMALE
- Experience in Manufacturing firm for preparation of year end audit reports and reportorial requirements to various government agencies.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:
- Excellent basic salary
- Attractive Incentive Scheme
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- Personal Accident Insurance
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Interested Candidates are invited to email your comprehensive resumé including your passport size picture and contact number to:

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Contact # 884-2778-884 2780 look for HR Dept.

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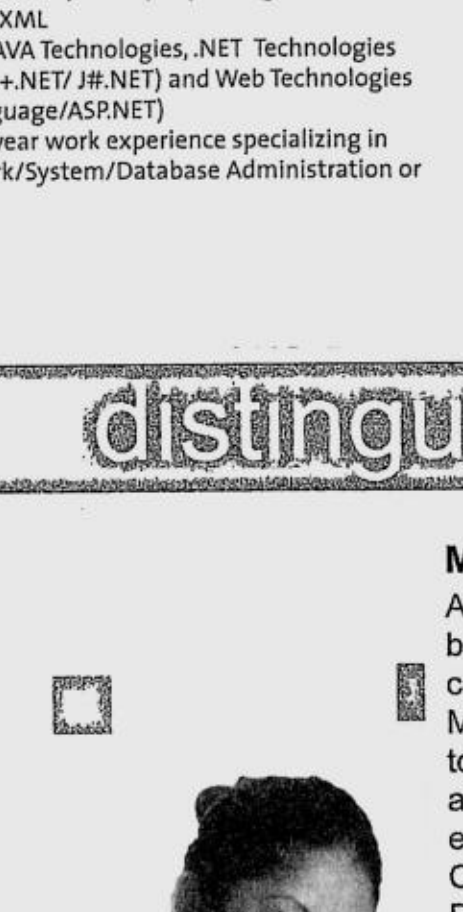

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INQUIRER JOB MARKET OFFERS MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER!

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October 23 and 24 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall

Inquirer Job Market Employment Expo
November 20 to 22 at the Glorietta Activity Center

Rotary Club of Muntinlupa City Center hosts career festival

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUNTINlupa City Center is joining hands with People South Network and Tesda to stage the Career Festival on Sept. 21 to 24 at the Expo Trade and Music Hall of Festival Supermall, Alabang.

Engelbert Camasura, charter president of both Rotary Club of Muntinlupa City Center and People South Network, said Career Festival is designed to provide not only job opportunities but also skills enhancement and knowledge enrichment as a way of helping an urban community.

The Career Festival is proudly sponsored by Inquirer Job Market, Filinvest Alabang, Trabaho.com and the Lungsod ng Muntinlupa through its Peso Office.

Camasura said the event is more than a job fair where job seekers usually just visit the participating companies' booths and submit their resumes.

The partnership with Tesda, for instance, allows RC Muntinlupa to award 3,000 training scholarship grants worth P5,000 each to qualified call center applicants. This will be given immediately after an assessment procedure to be managed by the Rotary Club of Muntinlupa City Center.

It is a Tesda program funded by the Office of the President to support those qualified but can't afford the high fees of preparing for a call center career as the government's response to the increasing manpower requirement of the booming call center industry.

The Career Festival also allows more than 50 major companies to offer thousands of job opportunities not only to the unemployed but also to those who are considering a career shift. Free training programs to be facilitated by Proselect Management for skills and knowledge enrichment come with the package.

Being a participant to this event - whether as an employer or as a job applicant – translates to helping the adopted urban community of the Rotary Club of Muntinlupa City Center to where the event proceeds will go.

PRESENT DURING THE MOA SIGNING WERE (SEATED FROM LEFT) ROTARY CLUB OF MUNTINlupa City Center President Elect Teresita Villanueva, Rotary Club District 3830 Asst. Governor Luz Pacifico, Inquirer SVP for Sales and Marketing Renato Reinoso, TESDA MuniParLas Director Josephine Casuga; (standing from left) PDI Account Executive Cristina A. Tio, Rotary-MCC Treasurer Robert Navarro, PDI Classifieds Division Head Jesse Francis Rebustillo, PDI Classified Ads Sales Manager Lourdes Diaz and PDI Account Executive Veronica Fernandez.

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ITD Mega Guru Event Features Canfield

THE INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (ITD) is bringing Jack Canfield, founder and co-author of the Chicken Soup for the Soul phenomena, here in the Philippines for their Mega Guru Event: Personal Excellence and Organizational Development. This ITD-Canfield event will feature Canfield's latest book, "The Success Principles: How to Get from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be". This book tackles the 64 principles that will accelerate your achievement of personal and professional goals, as well as further guide you on your practical application in other areas of your life. On the event itself participants will be able to see Jack Canfield in action, full of enthusiasm and verve, as he shares stories and illustrations supporting his tried and tested strategies. Jack Canfield will definitely showcase his charm as well as his brilliance on the said event proving that he is the world's leading expert in peak performance that authored and co-authored over 110 books with over 100 million copies in print in 46 languages.

The Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila will be the venue for the October 2 ITD-Canfield Mega Guru Event. Register now and avail of special early bird rates. For details, call ITD Consulting at 887-7428 or email itdmanila@itd.com.my.

PMAP holds annual confab for HR

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (PMAP) will host the biggest gathering of human resource (HR) managers and practitioners from all over the country in the 43rd PMAP Annual Conference set on Sept. 27–29 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas.

With the theme "Inspiring MVPs, Creating New HeRoes," the PMAP Conference this year takes a closer look at the role of HR management as a value-adding partner and player in business and in nation building. Local and international HR experts, policy-makers, industry leaders, and respected CEOs from top local and multinational companies will join participants in this two and a half-day learning experience to reflect, analyze, and discuss the role of HR management in creating value in the organization and help business address modern day challenges.

The PMAP Conference also provides a venue for HR professionals to understand the current and emerging HR trends and issues, discover new HR tools and strategies, learn from best practices of other HR practitioners, and determine new competencies necessary to be truly value-adding partners and players to their organizations.

Winners for the Employer of the Year, Personnel Manager of the Year, and Outstanding Personnel Program of the Year will also be presented during the PMAP Awards Night to cap the first conference day on Sept. 27.

PMAP is the professional organization of over 1,800 member-companies and individual management executives engaged in or interested in human resource management and industrial relations work. It has 19 chapters all over the country. Celebrating its golden anniversary this year, PMAP continues the tradition of its forefathers in advancing the profession, the science, and the art of human resource management.

For information on the conference, you may contact the PMAP Center at 726-1532/ 81/ 88 or at pmap@pmap.org.ph.

Convergys hosts family day for employees

CONVERGYS CORP IS HOSTING ITS first family day celebration in Makati City today, Sept. 17 to show appreciation for its employees and their families.

Family day activities will consist of two sessions, a "Meet the Parents" presentation and the Convergys Fair. Through the event, Convergys hopes to increase parents' and relatives' understanding of the contact center industry, raise awareness of their role as families of Convergys employees and most importantly provide a venue for employees and their families to have fun together.

The "Meet the Parents" presentation will take place at the Convergys One building on Ayala Avenue, Makati on Sunday morning. Convergys managers will be on hand to help the families of employees understand more about Convergys, the contact center industry, and the type of work that their loved ones perform on a typical day.

The second part of the day, Convergys Fair, will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Rockwell Center Multipurpose Court. The event features a lantern ride, a jumping castle, a Velcro wall, magic shows, and a performance by Freestyle, who will be launching their new album. Convergys is expecting approximately 2,500 Convergys employees and family members to attend the fair.

Convergys has six contact centers in Metro Manila and one center in Cebu City, as well as a training facility in Makati and the industry's first off-site recruitment facility located in the University Belt, Manila.

From a handful of employees when it first opened in 2003, Convergys now employs some 9,000 men and women who provide customer support via telephone, web-chat, and email for a diverse portfolio of clients and customers worldwide.

Internet marketing magic revealed

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW MUCH money you could be earning if you would find out the key ideas of internet marketing for your business? This could be your turning point. Don't miss this very important module. Listen to Donald Lim, President and CEO of Yehey.com as he shares the secrets of Internet Marketing in the much awaited event dubbed as Maximizing Sales and Marketing – Uncovering the Breakthrough Ideas that Broke Records.

Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines, in cooperation with Department of Trade and Industry, holds this major event slated on Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Club Filipino. Featuring other high-caliber speakers - Cecilio Pedro, CEO of Lamoiyan Corp (Hapee Toothpaste); Yoly Ong, Chairperson of Campaigns and Grey; Jos Ortega, Chairman and CEO of BrandLab; and Lizanne Uychaco, SVP & Chief Marketing Officer of PhilAm.

Sponsors for this big event include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Job Market, Porter and Miles, Canadian and Institute of Entrepreneurship.

Supervisory leadership enhancement

YOUR BUSINESS PERFORMANCE, TO a large extent, depends on how effective your supervisors lead your people. Remember, a supervisor may be technically competent but if he is handicapped by poor leadership skills, your company will not reach its full potential. Empower your leaders. Let them attend the very important seminar on Developing Your Supervisory Leadership slated on Sept. 22, 1 – 5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7710 / 20 for more information / reservation.

No recruitment yet of nurses, caregivers to Japan

ACTING LABOR SECRETARY Danilo P. Cruz said that despite the signing of the Japan Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), there is no recruitment of nurses and caregivers as yet, to Japan.

Cruz thus warned illegal recruiters from taking advantage, as well as cautioned would-be overseas Filipino workers to be wary and report to authorities suspected illegal recruiters for their own safety and protection.

Cruz, citing the report of Administrator Rosalinda D. Baldoz of the DOLE's Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), said that recruitment to Japan will commence only upon the finalization of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Philippines and Japan.

Cruz said the MOU is expected to follow swiftly on the heels of the agreement formally forged by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, during the 6th Leaders Summit of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Helsinki, Finland.

The Acting Labor Chief said that following the MOU, the recruitment and deployment of nurses and caregivers to Japan will be implemented by the POEA, through its Government Placement Branch, based on a government-to-government hiring system.

The candidates for the jobs in Japan will be selected by the Philippine government through POEA, and will be required to study the Japanese language for six months prior to the on-the-job training.

Within three years of the OJT given to nurses, and four to caregivers, they should have passed the stringent Japan qualification examinations in order for them to work in Japan for a longer period — otherwise they will have to return to the Philippines.

Rotary Club of Muntinlupa City Center in cooperation with the PEOPLE South Network invite you to be part of this unique and big event...

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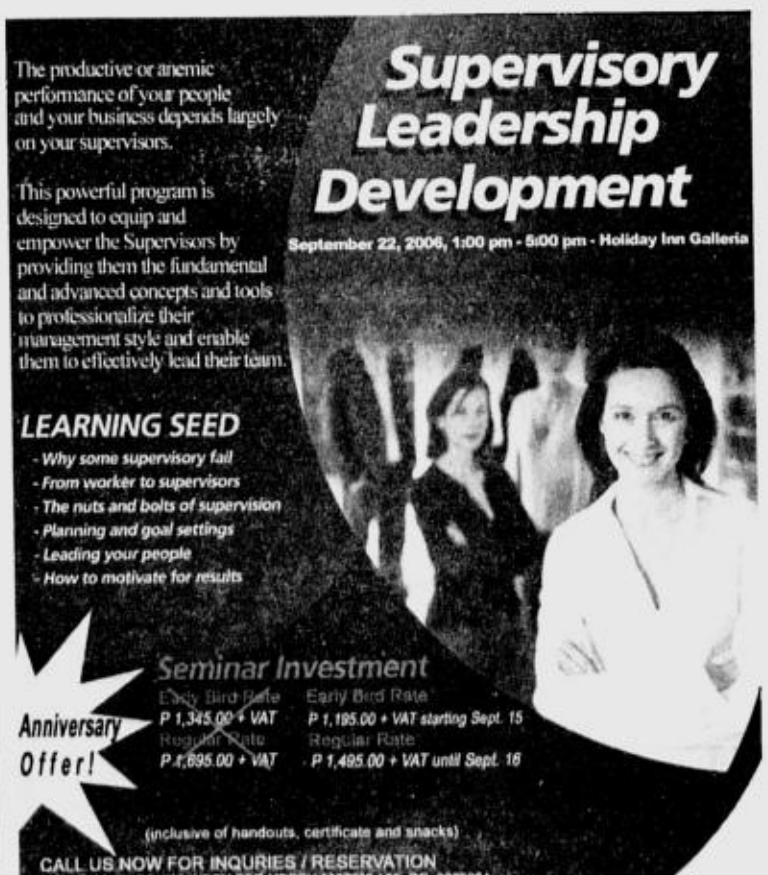

REGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISER FOR BIODIVERSITY

Location	:	Bangkok, THAILAND
Application Deadline	:	30-Sep-06
Type of Contract	:	200 Series
Post Number	:	11777
Post Level	:	L5 (ICS-12)
Languages Required	:	English
Duration of Initial Contract	:	1year

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Background

As one of the three implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP oversees a portfolio of projects in the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, international waters, Ozone depleting substance phase-out, land degradation, and persistent organic pollutants. The cumulative value of UNDP's GEF portfolio is nearly US$5.0 billion. These projects are implemented through UNDP's network of more than 130 country offices located in developing countries as well as numerous UN and other agency partners. UNDP's GEF unit is based in UNDP's Bureau of Development Policy (BDP) and is a key part of the Energy and Environment Group (EEG). The GEF Executive Coordinator is also the Deputy Director of the EEG. Given the highly specialized nature of the GEF Program, UNDP's GEF unit is organized by focal area, with the Principal Technical Advisor being the team leader within each focal area. Each Principal Technical Advisor leads and supports a team of regionally based UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisors, who in turn support UNDP's country offices and partners in their focal area work in their respective countries. The role of a UNDP GEF Regional Technical Advisor is to support project implementation partners, primarily UNDP country offices but also other UN agencies, governments and inter-governmental organizations, NGO's, co-funders, etc. in the efficient, effective, and high quality delivery of project development and implementation services in one or more focal areas or sub-focal areas, drawing primarily on GEF funds, but also other sources of finance as appropriate.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Regional Technical Advisor will report to the UNDP-GEF Principal Technical Advisor for Biodiversity in New York.

The Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity for Asia and the Pacific works under the overall guidance and supervision of the UNDP GEF Principal Technical Advisor for Biodiversity and in close consultation with the UNDP GEF Regional Team Leader for Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Service Centre, and alongside, and in collaboration with, the other Technical Advisors in the region. Each Regional Technical Advisor is normally responsible for supporting all countries in the region, or sub-region, in the full range of UNDP activities related to their area of GEF specialization. The role of the Regional Technical Advisor is to provide technical, policy and other support service to the UNDP Country Offices, Executing Agencies, GEF focal points and other government representatives, project teams, and potential and actual project proponents, to identify, develop, implement and monitor GEF projects in the sub-region.

Duties and Function:

1. Project cycle management (70%):

   Within the Asia and Pacific region and in all areas of biodiversity, technical support to Country Offices and project proponents through all stages of the GEF project and programming cycle, and in accordance with the UNDP-GEF Programming Manual, by responding to requests, the Regional Technical Advisor is responsible for:

   - identification and development of biodiversity project ideas for admission to the UNDP and GEF pipelines within the overall strategic priorities for the region identified by UNDP and in line with the global strategic priorities articulated by GEF;
   - design, preparation, submission and approval of project proposals and requests for project development financing;
   - identification and sourcing of technical expertise and support including assisting with the preparation of terms of reference, identifying and evaluating experts, reviewing reports, etc.;
   - identification and liaison with potential and actual co-financing agencies and institutions;
   - advice to Country Offices on inception, contracting and start up of projects including establishment of indicators, benchmarks and work plans;
   - supervising implementation through technical advice, participation in Tripartite Project Reviews when needed and in drawing lessons learned for sharing on Knowledge Management (KM) networks;
   - providing technical advice and KM on GEF policies and activities to UNDP Regional Service Centres, SURFS, Country Offices, etc.;
   - debriefing Resident Representatives' offices of countries in the region of all project development, implementation and monitoring activities of countries in the region.

2. Participation in GEF technical team through: (20%)
   - KM networks and regular cluster activities, including regional strategic planning, pipeline management exercises, technical debate within clusters, and development of resource kits and other KM materials;
   - participation in cross-Focal Area dialogue, common strategic visioning, mainstreaming, programming, and collaboration within the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) coordinated by the Regional Team Leader (RTL);
   - keeping the RTL fully informed of all issues requiring operational support and help in collaborating with the Regional Service Centre;
   - standard reporting - including mission reports, Quarterly Operational Reports (QORs), Annual Project Reviews (APRs);
   - Project Implementation Reports (PIRs); providing support to evaluation, and capturing and synthesizing lessons and best practices; maintaining project information in UNDP-GEF Project Information Management System (PIMS);
   - responding to queries regarding project progress, impacts and lessons;
   - keeping UNDP-GEF Headquarters informed of trends and issues within the region;
   - interacting with the Energy and Environment Group (EEG) of the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) on lessons learned and KM related activities.

3. Liaison with other agencies and partners: (10%)
   - establishing and maintaining contact with other GEF Implementing Agencies and Executing Agencies, donors, NGOs, private sector, etc, to seek strategic partnerships, synergies, coordination and cooperation and to avoid overlap, duplication or conflict;
   - reviewing and commenting on proposals to GEF Secretariat from other Implementing and expanded Executing Agencies;
   - keeping SURFs, UNDP Country Offices, Executing Agencies, governments, and other partners informed of GEF policies and activities; keeping UNDP GEF HQ informed of trends and issues within the region.

Competencies

- Ability to work as a team leader and forging partnerships among networks of specialists and experts to help implement and monitor projects.
- Initiative, sound judgment and strong conceptual and communication skills.
- Dedication to UN principles and demonstrated management abilities, including being able to work harmoniously with persons of different cultural backgrounds.
- Ability to facilitate and coordinate.
- An entrepreneurial spirit, and demonstrated ability to work in an independent manner.

Required Skills and Experience

Post-graduate University degree (Master's or equivalent) in biodiversity sciences, environmental sciences, natural resource management or a closely related field.

- Excellent knowledge of the English language, with exceptional writing, presentation and communication skills.
- Full computer literacy.
- Minimum of 10 years experience in the field in developing countries in biodiversity.
- Extensive experience with project development, implementation and management (direct project management experience is preferable).
- Experience in the policy development processes associated with environment and sustainable development issues.
- Experience working in the Asia and Pacific region.
- Working experience in an international organization is an advantage as is knowledge of UNDP and GEF policies and procedures.
- It is expected that at least 60 days a year will be spent traveling to countries within the region.

Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply. Candidates who have previously applied need not resubmit an application. Interested candidates should submit a detailed resume and UN Personal History Form (P11) along with a cover letter highlighting relevant skills and experience in regard to the position and clearly stating the position and respective reference number by 30 September 2006. Kindly send the application to **undp.gef.jobs@undp.org**. For more information, visit the following site: **http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?job_id=434**

PerkinElmer precisely

PerkinElmer has a revenue of over US$1.5 billion and is a high technology international organization operating two businesses - Optoelectronics, and Life and Analytical Sciences. A component of Standard & Poor's 500 Index and publicly listed on the New York Stock Exchange, PerkinElmer operates in over 125 locations with a diversified workforce of over 10,000 worldwide. We provide market-driven, integrated solutions for biomedical and industrial markets through enhancing productivity, optimizing performance and accelerating customers' time-to-market. An ISO9001:2000, ISO 14000:2004, ISO/TS 16949 certified and a 6-Sigma company, we are world renowned for our excellence in service and quality.

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Finance Officer - General Accounting (Code: FOGA)

The Job
- Assists Finance Unit Manager in preparation of Financial and Cost reports and monitors performance against plan and forecast.
- In-charge of Financial Analysis and drives Expense Reduction projects.
- Ensures compliance with Sarbanes Oxley Act, accuracy of SAP Trial Balance and timely updating of subsidiary ledgers.
- In-charge of Cash Forecast & Analysis and inter-company reconciliation.
- Prepares tax remittances and reports for submission to different government offices.
- Advises and studies new tax rules and regulations and coordinates with banks, government offices and affiliates on various issues.

The Requirements
- Graduate of BS in Accountancy; Certified Public Accountant preferred.
- Must have a minimum of 2 years related experience in a manufacturing environment.
- Must be proficient in spreadsheets and word applications and above average analytical ability.
- Experience in SAP or equivalent will be an advantage.

Process Engineer (Code: PE Test)

The Job
- Drives production performance goals including yield, quality, COPQ reduction, productivity, and other key performance indicators.
- Spearheads, coordinates, initiates, monitors processes, equipment and material evaluations to improve key performance indicators.
- Monitors yield and quality trends daily and spearheads and coordinates engineering evaluations and studies to improve these trends.
- Coordinates training to other personnel on projects and process technologies in order to achieve key results.
- Establishes Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to reduce non-conformance or Opportunity of Improvement at the production line.
- Identifies projects to reduce Cost Of Poor Quality (COPQ) and establishes Corrective or Preventive Action through 6-sigma tools

The Requirements
- Graduate of BSECE, BS Applied Physics, BSEE .
- Must have a minimum of 2 years related experience in a manufacturing environment.
- Must have a working knowledge on Statistical Techniques.
- Strong background on electronics principles and application
- Good understanding of the interaction between software, electrical and hardware systems with the experience and ability to resolve performance and functional issues that would arise during test
- Knowledge in LabView software is an advantage

Planner/Buyer (Code: P/B)

The Job
- Schedules customer orders based on current capacity and needs and maintains production schedules satisfying Customer requirements.
- Processes customer orders as well as change orders/reschedules.
- Performs weekly clean-up and review of Master Schedule Report (MPS) and Material Requirement Planning (MRP) reports and coordinates changes/adjustments to Saint Louis, US
- Reconciles open Purchase Order list against the Material Requirement Planning (MRP), Open Supply for any changes and updates confirmation of New orders.
- Liaises with Saint Louis, US on projected deliveries, late shipments and overdue materials.
- Monitors start-up, work-in-process and completion of work orders and monitors daily production output to ensure that the week's schedule will be met.
- Coordinates with Process Engineering on yield issues; inquires possible alternatives and issues evaluation samples.

The Requirements
- Graduate of Engineering or Business related course. Master in Business Administration will be an advantage.
- Must have at least 5 years related experience gained from a multinational (cross-cultural setting) semiconductor/ electronics manufacturing set-up.
- Experience in Enterprise Resource Planning or SAP will be an advantage.
- Must have broad knowledge in production planning and control, manufacturing resource planning and/or new product introduction and planning.
- Must have strong business acumen.

Quality Assurance Engineer (Code: QA FA/Rel)

The Job
- In-charge of doing Failure Analyses in support to customer or quality issues raised by Process and/or Quality Assurance Engineering.
- Drives process improvements in various manufacturing processes to improve product quality and reliability.
- Conducts in depth quality systems and process control audits.
- Assures that the reliability of parts produced are maintained by performing appropriate stress tests on assembled parts and implements the Reliability Monitoring Program (RMP) on identified products.
- Performs analyses on requests for defects or failures found in processes, gates, or monitors any external requests from customers and provide recommendations to correct the problem and prevent it from recurring.

The Requirements
- Graduate of BS EE, ECE, ME or IE; MS Degree would be an advantage
- Must have at least 2 yrs experience in semiconductor/ electronics manufacturing set-up with actual hands-on experience in doing Failure Analysis and Reliability Tests. Knowledge in basic statistical tools (six sigma exposure would be an advantage). With strong background in Quality Systems.
- Must be Computer literate, knowledgeable in Minitab application and with good oral and written communication skills.
- Must be willing to learn, flexible in work schedule, hard working and can work with least supervision and has self-initiative.

Industrial Engineer (Code: IE)

The Job
- Determines capacity resources and headcount requirements based on monthly demand forecast and production schedules.
- Conducts time and motion studies to come up with work standards (UPH).
- Drives productivity improvement to close the gap between IE standard HPK and actual manufacturing HPK.
- Calculates machine investments and conducts capital requirements analysis (ROI).
- Establishes standard material usage and implements consumption reduction activities to lessen product material cost as well as narrow the gap between standard and actual product costing.
- Reviews product costing requests along with the financial analyst and manufacturing engineer.
- Updates SAP product routings, work centers and bill of materials database.
- Leads monthly audit in BOM and routing accuracy team as part of Class A ERP metrics.
- Publishes report on manpower efficiency metrics.

The Requirements
- Graduate of BS IE or BS Manufacturing Engineering or any related engineering course. Must have at least 2 years work experience as an Industrial Engineer gained in semiconductor/electronics manufacturing set-up.
- Fresh graduates with strong potential are welcome to apply.
- Demonstrated ability in driving productivity improvements in materials consumption and manpower efficiency.
- Demonstrated ability in establishing capacity models, standard materials consumption and product costing analysis.
- Must be proficient in spreadsheets and word applications and possesses above average analytical ability.
- Experience in SAP is an advantage specifically in BOM, routing and work center database maintenance.

Line Maintenance Technician (Code: LMT)

The Job
- Performs daily maintenance activities in the production lines to ensure all equipment are in operational conditions, downtimes are minimized and set-ups are carried out in the shortest possible time.
- The main responsibility is to support Production in terms of machine calibration and electrical test set – up.
- Performs regular preventive maintenance on all machines/equipment.

The Requirements
- Graduate of Electronics and Communications Technology or any related 3-year technical course.
- Must have minimum of 2 years related experience in a Semiconductor/optoelectronics/electronics
- Preferably computer literate.
- The candidate must be highly motivated, analytical, creative, resourceful and team player. Preferably computer literate.

Facilities Technician - Mechanical (Code: FTM)

The Job
- Operation and maintenance of facilities equipment such as air compressor, water chiller, Air handling unit (AHU) and air-conditioning unit (ACU).
- Provide support services to production and installation of required utilities.
- Perform daily inspection and monitoring of all facilities mechanical equipment, including the building and grounds.
- Perform planned preventive maintenance schedule of the equipment.
- Operation and maintenance of stand-by Generator sets.
- Operation and maintenance of de-ionized water system and waste water neutralization system.
- Perform in-house projects such as commissioning of new equipment, machine improvements plumbing and metal fabrication.
- Perform troubleshooting and repair on all facilities and production equipment.

The Requirements
- Graduate of 3-year Vocational / Trade course (HVAC).
- With at least 5 years working experience in a semiconductor/ electronics manufacturing set-up.
- Must have working knowledge in Philippine Mechanical Codes.

Please send in your detailed resumé w/ most recent photo indicating reference code to:

Human Resources Department **PERKINELMER OPTOELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES INC.**
#3 Ampere St., Light Industry & Science Park 1, Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna 4025
Visit us at: www.perkinelmer.com or E-mail us at: optoph.hr@perkinelmer.com

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1. With at least 2 years experience
2. Single; can work long hours
3. Not more than 25 years old

Send your resumé and credentials:

Human Resources Department
Room 302 Downjones Bldg.,
Km. 19 West Service Road, South Superhighway,
Sucat, Parañaque City
Fax No.: 824-4211

Republic of the Philippines
Career Executive Service Board
#3 Marcelino St., Holy Spirit Drive, Quezon City

The Career Executive Service Board is inviting interested Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs) to apply for the position of –

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the policies, rules, regulations, programs and projects relative to the governance of Career Executive Service or the CES.

Applicants must submit the following: (1) Application letter; (2) Personal Data Sheet; and (3) Picture (2x2) to:

Job Ref: **Executive Director**
Career Executive Service Board
#3 Marcelino Street, Holy Spirit Drive
Isidora Hills Subdivision, Diliman, 1127 Quezon City
Telephone nos. 951-4981; 931-5732

Applications must be submitted not later than **30 September 2006**. Non CESOs need not apply.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO M. LACHICA**
OIC-Executive Director

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- excellent command in written & oral communication;

SR. NETWORK ENGINEER

- graduate of ECE, EE, CS, COE or related courses,
- with at least 3 years experience in systems and network administration position;
- must be proficient in data communications, network architectures (TCP/IP) and internet technologies;
- knowledge or experience in CCNA, JNCIA, FCNE an advantage;
- must be willing to work on call on a 24/7 basis;
- excellent command in verbal and written communications.

NERA (PHILIPPINES) INC.
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Tel. No 849-NERA (6372) / Fax No. 845-3511/12
Email: **mae_liamzon@yahoo.com**

WORKING PEOPLE

E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph;

Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Text us your feedback: Inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

How to move one step up the corporate ladder

Develop excellent job interview skills

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

GRADUATING STUDENTS and young professionals are often interested to know the best way to land that dream job. They almost always ask questions about how to conduct the job interview well, among other topics. Following are some recommendations for anyone interested to move up the corporate ladder:

Dress appropriately. Even before you utter a word, the interviewer will notice your bearing and the clothes you are wearing. Dress for the occasion. If you want to be taken seriously, you also have to dress the part. Come in business attire. In the Philippine setting, this usually means smart casual or suit (depending on the job you are applying for).

There are different degrees of formalities, usually based on the industry that you are considering. For example, a banking job would indicate the need to dress more formally or conservatively vs an advertising job where a little creativity is accepted. When in doubt, it is better to be conservative than to come underdressed.

Do your homework. The skill of interviewing well doesn't begin on the day you meet your interviewer. It starts even before that. It is important that you research about the company you are applying with; as this will reflect in the way you answer questions. If the interviewer asks why you would like to join them and you're clueless about the answer—that tells a lot about your character. If you are serious about your career and the direction it is taking, it is but natural to expect that you should at least know what you are getting yourself into. Check the Internet, visit the library, ask your friends for information about the company you are considering.

Know what you want. This may sound very simple but a lot of professionals actually blotch up on this aspect. If you do not know what exactly you would like to do with your life or career, perhaps you should step back a little and think. One of the biggest turn offs in candidate interviews happens when the person cannot even answer this question. When asked what it is they would like to do for the company, the candidate answers that he is willing to do anything. You have to know yourself and what it is you are good at. The interviewer will not be in a position to tell you what to do with your career. You have to know it yourself.

Identify your competitive advantage. Finding and interviewing for a job involves competition. A lot of people are aiming for the same thing so it is important for you to know what it is that sets you apart from others. Again, you have to go through some kind of self-discovery to identify your strengths and weakness, your talents and ambitions, your unique personality. When you arrive for the interview, you should already be ready to spell it out and not bother the interviewer with details of your soul searching. Interviewers are busy people and you should also learn to go straight to the point.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Say thank you. Most people forget about the interview as soon as they leave the office. If you had a worthwhile chat with the interviewer, it may be a good idea to send a thank you note as a gesture of graciousness. The interviewer spent valuable time with you and thanking him for that can't be such a bad idea.

Interviewing for a job is a skill that is perfected with time and practice. Don't grow tired of talking to people and saying practically the same things all over again. It's somewhat like dating. The process of finding the right one can be tedious and tiring but it still holds a lot of promise that at the end of it all—the perfect match awaits.

(The author worked as an executive search consultant for ZMG Signium Ward Howel. She has an MBM from the Asian Institute of Management)

What is the role of the chief executive officer?

By Tita Datu Puangco

MY PARENTS ARE BOTH doctors. They recently talked to me about taking over the hospital that they built over 15 years ago. They plan to retire in a year or two. I am 25 years old a graduate of economics from a prestigious university. I am anxious because I am not a doctor. At the same time, I am excited and challenged. What is the role of the CEO and President of a hospital with a 30-bed capacity? I realize that my parents deliberately kept the operations small so they can keep an eye on everything. Considering the demand of medical care in our province, I think we can even double in size and become more profitable. I am also thinking of setting up a nursing school. Please advise me on a training program to become a successful CEO. Thank you.

Anxious CEO To Be

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

It is never an easy task to take over as President and CEO after the stint of the founding leaders. The task is how to ensure that the enterprise stays afloat and in your case to challenge the status quo towards greater growth.

By the way, it may not be necessary that you should be a doctor to be CEO of a hospital. Be consoled that you have parents who act as your advisors on the medical aspects. The ability to exercise strategic leadership is what is needed.

Role of CEO

Typically in family corporations like yours, the office chief executive officer (CEO) is also the chairman of the board while another person is the president or the chief operating officer (COO). In most hospitals today they have an executive director who takes care of overall administration or the COO position. Considering the size of your enterprise you may be expected to be president and CEO/COO. This combination though may have corporate governance implications especially in the aspect of control. The CEO is answerable to the Board of Directors for the performance of the enterprise. All organizations have specific goals and objectives they strive to meet.

The CEO with his or her team devises strategies and formulates policies to ensure that these objectives are met.

In smaller organizations such as retail stores or smaller manufacturers, owners or entrepreneurs, the chief executive officer role is assumed by the general manager or owner.CEOs must definitely possess leadership skills to address the multiple challenges that face the enterprise. Typically these challenges are in the areas of human resources, finance, external factors such as clients and suppliers and technical challenges.

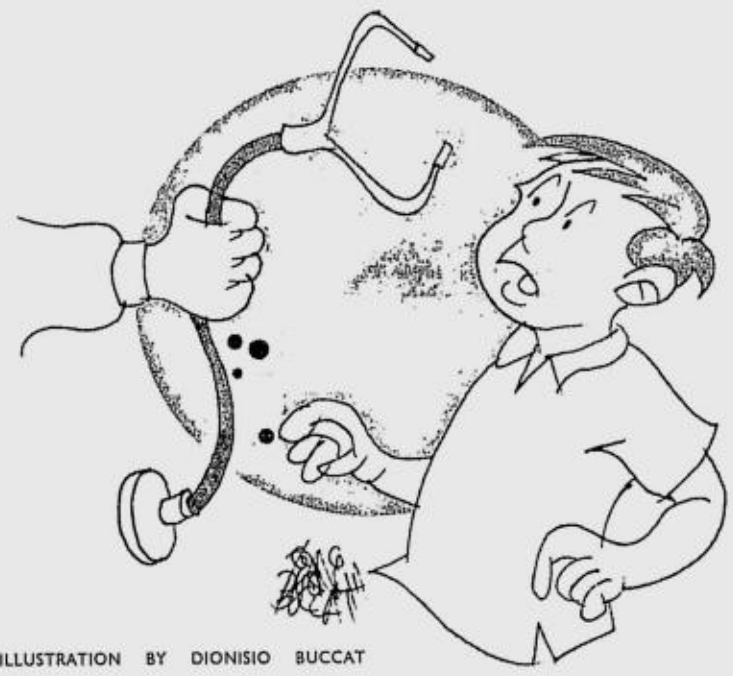

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

CEOs are called to exercise true business leadership. But this is not enough. You also have to take responsibility for shaping the environment so that the province or country prospers. It also entails collaborating with other sectors to help in resolving social problems if addressed can benefit business and society. Your enterprise does not operate in a vacuum.

My advice to you as you start as CEO, is not to do dramatic changes at once.

First put yourself in a learning mode. Get to know how the hospital functions, its social and technical operations. Do an assessment of its strengths and its improvement areas. Read up on best practices in hospital management and administration. Get to know people working for the hospital.

Then get an executive coach, who can guide your transition. The person must be competent and somebody you trust, preferably not involved in the company, who can be objective and be solely concerned with giving you the advice that will allow you to move forward to achieve the goals in your strategic plan.

For a quick overview of the roles of the CEO and the external environment today, you can attend the CEO 1000 Summit on Sept. 27 and 28 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. Call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 8922-2898 for inquiries.

Finally, be patient and persevering. As CEO, people will be watching your every move. Be sure to demonstrate behaviors that build trust, commitment and performance in people. All the best!

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company. Send feedback at advice@ancillaedc.com.ph, or fax 892-2902.)

Save face, lose life

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

FOR TODAY'S REFLECTION, ALLOW ME TO PLAY around with words and divert a bit from something as heroic as saving one's life to something as everyday as saving one's face. A lot of face-saving goes on in the workplace from day to day, and whether we're aware of it or not, everybody has done some face-saving at one time or another "to keep the peace." Covering up for a colleague to spare him from the boss' anger is a face-saving device; so is owning the boss' mistake in order to shield him from sure embarrassment among the higher-ups.

Think of the many ways we save face at work—from the "little white lies" we utter to the most preposterous excuses we manufacture to escape punishment. Examples: We say "Our speaker will be a bit late due to the heavy traffic" when the truth is he woke up half an hour before his scheduled talk. We tell people—in a tone that smacks of "good riddance"—that we are resigning when in fact the management is so disappointed with our performance that it is pressuring us to resign.

Many are the reasons we save face, but no matter how well-intentioned they are, sooner or later face-saving becomes a bad habit. Even "white lies" turn into habitual dishonesty, and heaven knows what ruin the bigger lies eventually bring upon the whole company. The "little white lie" is like the baobab tree that looks harmless when small but when grown can strangle the whole earth with its roots. When we make a career of face-saving, our work inevitably loses its life: errors are left uncorrected, and labor's life-giving force is stunted because we base our work not on truth but on deceit. What about trying to be honest for the sake of Jesus—the truth and the life. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila @yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel. Mk. 8: 27-35

'Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it.'

'Totoong hanapbuhay'

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE RECENT WAR IN LEBANON MADE US AWARE OF the pitiful plight of the Filipino migrant workers who risk their lives because of their jobs—"sa paghahanap buhay" (literally, "in search for life"). They go through all kinds of sufferings, humiliations and even physical threat to their lives and limbs to get higher pay abroad in order to provide a seemingly better life for themselves and their families. Our OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) are regarded as modern heroes not only by their loved ones but also by the Filipino society who benefit economically from their dollar remittances.

Yet, they know as we do, that the sad and sorry state of many of their families and the socio-politico-economic malaise of our country seem undeserving of their sacrifices abroad. What do they "lose their lives for," if not enough good comes out of it? What could be another reason to die besides that of the good of the family or nation?

Jesus offers a superior reason to live and die either in one's native land or elsewhere—His sake and that of the Gospel. Believing in Jesus' teachings and loving Him are the most worthy motives that every worker, local or overseas, and of whatever category he is, could risk his life at work for. Our loved ones and the beloved country could be "worth dying for" but, they could only offer us a lasting memory of our deeds; while dying for Jesus can save us from eternal death and gain for us everlasting life.

The good news is, that the little "wars" that happen in the workplace—fighting our blues, struggling to control our temper and tongue against irrational bosses or antipathetic colleagues, etc.—could gain for us true life when fought for love of Jesus. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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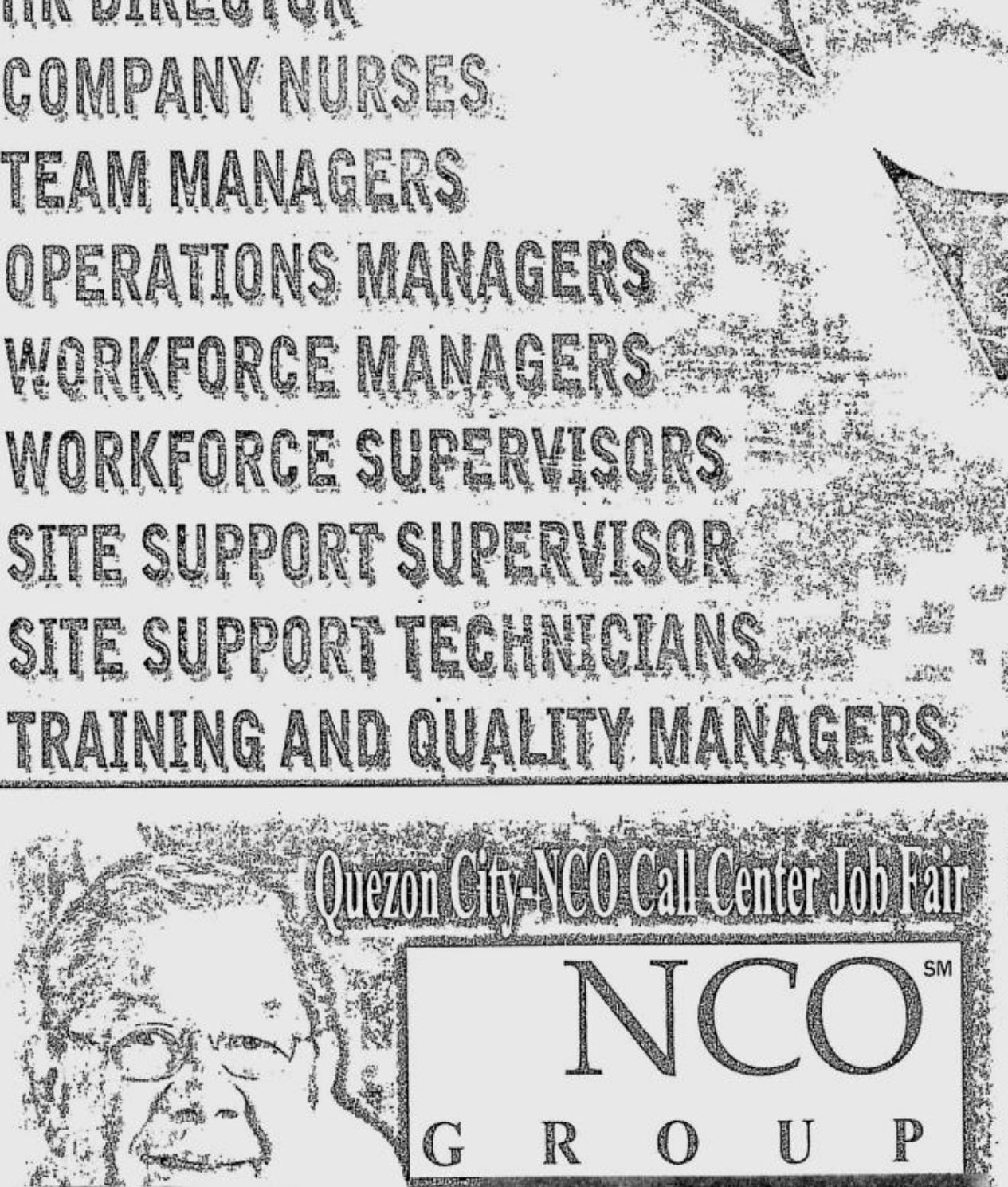

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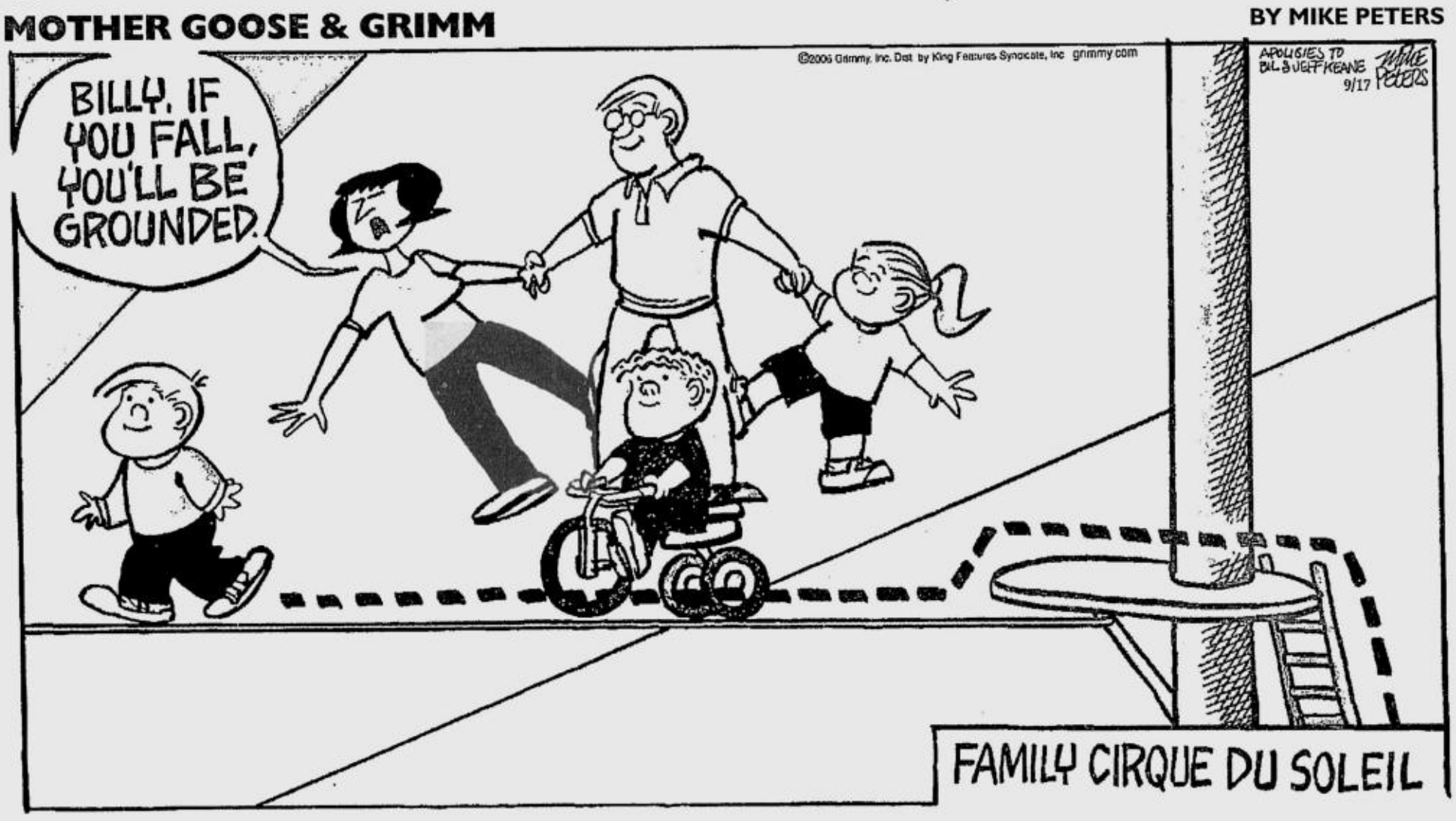

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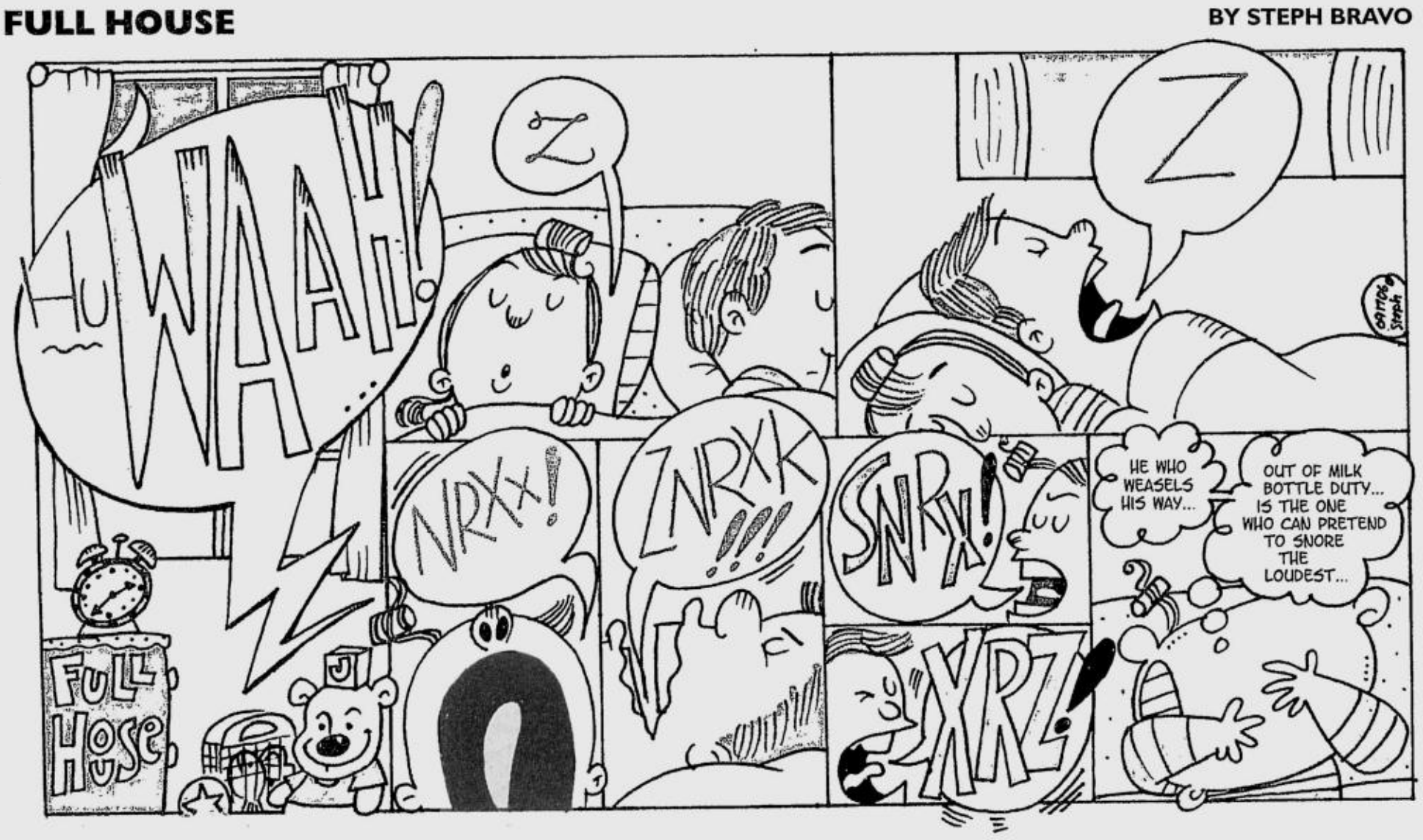

September 17, 2006
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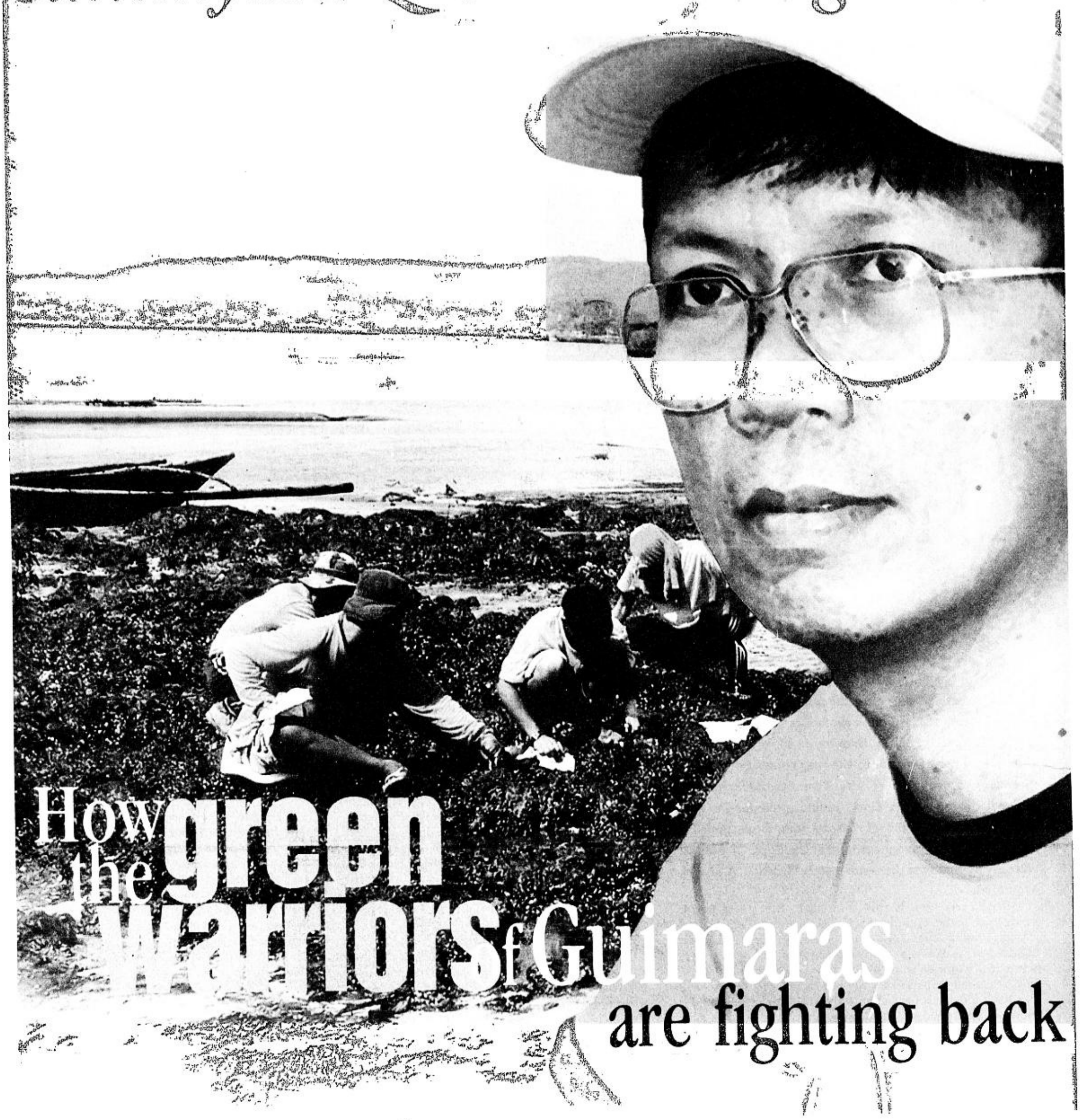
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



How the green warriors of Guimaras are fighting back

by Ma. Diosa Labiste
photographs by Arnold Almacen
Inquirer Visayas

The oil spill off Guimaras Strait is the worst environmental disaster he's seen, says Green Forum Western Visayas head Melvin Purzuelo. But with an army of volunteers and his team from Task Force Save our Seas, he believes he can turn the tide against the black menace

LIKE a warrior who prepares for a drawn-out battle, Melvin Purzuelo has stockpiled his weapons to defeat the enemy: the oil spill from the wrecked tanker MT Solar I, which sank in the waters off Guimaras Strait and Panay Gulf on August 11 with its load of 300,000 liters of bunker fuel. Purzuelo surveys his munitions: piles of rice straws, lines of fishing nets, heaps of coconut husks, some old clothes, sacks of corn cobs, bamboo poles and whorls of hair from beauty parlors. All these, and the determined spirit to race against time to contain what is said to be the worst oil spill ever to hit the country.

"Nothing was said in books about using indigenous materials against an oil spill. But let's keep our faith that, given our limited resources, we can work things out," says Purzuelo, 43, who heads the environment watch group Green Forum Western Visayas.

Purzuelo's team, the Task Force Save Our Seas (SOS), has rallied people to donate absorbent materials to clean up the oil spill that can destroy the rich but fragile marine ecosystems of Guimaras.

The donated materials are taken to the Iloilo Fishing Port Complex, where they are made into oil spill booms to be installed in shallow waters or a mile offshore. Bales of rice straws tied together form a long line that traps the advancing slick of bunker fuel. Coconut husks, corn cobs and discarded clothes are stuffed into huge bags made of discarded fishing nets that will be anchored by floats of plastic water bottles and bamboo. Globs of bunker oil are known to stick to these makeshift booms that form the first line of defense against the oil slick before it laps the beaches.

Dying a little

The hair whorls are a problem. While bags of hair have been arriving from beauty parlors and prisons, the task force has yet to devise a way to make them into a boom, because it has no idea how long it would take for the hair to degrade, and whether it can effectively absorb the oil. Yet, says Purzuelo, it's some sort of sacrifice to shave one's head or cut one's hair to dramatize concern for the damaged environment. It's like dying a little, he adds.

Purzuelo and his team credit their training in disaster preparedness for their ability to respond immediately to the oil spill. A few hours after hearing news about the sinking of MT Solar I, Purzuelo assembled his squad of six, composed of Jorge Abordom, Dennis Taborno, Rey Beatisula, Mila Cabrera, Roy Latap and Greg Azares. While the news focused on the search and rescue of the tanker's two missing crew members, the Green Forum was already thinking about the looming disaster from the oil spill.

Purzuelo recounts how they had wanted to survey the waters where the tanker was last seen, but storm surges prevented them from doing so. Instead, the group started working closely with the Philippine Coast Guard, Greenpeace and marine scientists from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas to map out plans on how to deal with the bunker oil already seeping into the coastal villages of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras the morning after the sea disaster.

Floating blanket

News of oil choking the mangroves and sea grass beds had started coming in. When they visited Guimaras, the Green Forum staff and volunteers saw how the beaches had become blackened by bunker fuel tossed by the waves. The wide mudflats that yield all sorts of shellfish, shrimps, crabs and near-shore fish had disappeared under the floating blanket of black grease. The sight brought tears to the eyes of many Guimarasnon, including their governor, JC Rahman Nava.

While the Guimaras governor was busy providing food rations to those unable to fish as a result of the spill, Green Forum started sending out appeals for help and donations of all sorts of absorbent materials to contain the oil slick.

Says Purzuelo: "We didn't really start from

To page 6

Eggie for the ages, p.2 Super soprano, p.3 Maxi maker, p.4

First Person

by Fe B. Zamora

This year's Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts wanted news stories told through people. Don't say it, show how it affects people, says this feisty publisher of several papers that have brought down the Marcos and Erap regimes. Well, let me tell you how she has affected me

The author (right) with the new RM Awardee: Tita Eggie taught her to "follow what I feel"

Tita Eggie's 'show, don't tell' brand of journalism

AND so it came to pass that on my seventh year in Imelda's City of Man, I met Eugenia "*Tita* Eggie" Apostol. I had gone to see her after she put out a two-line note in the Letters to the Editor section of the phenomenal Mr & Ms Special Edition, then on its third or fourth issue, asking me to report to the magazine's Edsa office, pronto. Two weeks before, after I went to the mammoth martial law rally where Cory Aquino spoke for the first time about ending the Marcos regime, I had gone to Eggie with my personal account of the Sept. 21 Mendiola rally at Mendiola that ended with 11 dead and scores wounded.

Mendiola had been heavily barricaded, with armed troops ready to do battle. With the crack of gunfire, everybody started running towards Recto. I saw a man fall on my right, and another slumped on the pavement. Placards were set on fire, lighting up a scene filled with men uprooting lampposts and sidewalk railings, and kids running with sacks of rice and canned goods from Imelda's Kadiwa Centers. I ended up at the FEU Hospital where, like most survivors, I had helped bring the injured.

Women in media

I wrote my account and brought it to the Mr & Ms office, where I met the two women with "balls": Ms Apostol and the celebrated Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc. In July 1981, Letty was sacked as editor in chief of the Panorama Magazine for writing a "seditious and libelous" article on the inauguration of President Marcos. The story behind her resignation would be published in Mr & Ms despite threats from Marcos' media managers. Two years later, on July 2, 1983, I was among Letty's audience at the Philippine P.E.N. (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) conference on "The Writer in a Climate of Fear" at the National Press Club. Letty spoke about women in media.

Now the two women were going over my story. It turned out that they had a lot of photos on the rally but no story. Letty started editing my story with a green pen. *Tita* Eggie simply asked me, "What is your politics?"

Actually, I had none. But I said something about being left of center, being anti-Marcos, and so on. I gave the basics: I was a Journalism graduate and had been working on my MA in Journalism while writing press releases for Bibsy Carballo's PR agency, researching on the evolution of the Philippine *terno* for the poet Virgie Moreno, and writing feature articles for the lifestyle and entertainment section of Times Journal, and its TV magazine, Parade. I did not tell her that I had difficulty holding an 8-to-5 job; that after college (Silliman University and the Lyceum of the Philippines), I had worked as writer at the Current Events Digest (three days), researcher in-charge of news clippings at the Philippine Navy (four months), writer at the Junior Citizen (four months), copywriter at an ad agency (one day), and news writer at the defense department (one month). I quit them all because of the bundy clock.

Not knowing this, *Tita* Eggie took me in.

My first job at Mr & Ms entailed opening letters, hundreds of them, and sorting them according to topics. The boxes of letters were received by the guard, secretly transported to a low-ceilinged room on the second floor that had the signage LJM Garments on the door. It was *Tita* Eggie's idea of misleading Marcos, just in case they wanted to raid the magazine. The "cave" was "press work area" for three—the editor in chief, typesetter Nitz del Rosario, and myself as proofreader, editorial assistant, clerk, etc.

Sheer paradise

Tita Eggie, a non-smoker, worked downstairs, with artists Jess Abrera, Marlon Diamante and the production group led by Joe Ocampo. On other days of the week, I was out in the streets covering rallies with photographer Mandy Navasero.

Without a bundy clock, Mr & Ms Special Edition was sheer paradise. There were only rallies, press work and "*Tita* Eggie," who, with her breathy, sing-song voice, was always telling us. "*O sige sige na, tapusin na.Tama na yan*. We'll be late." She seemed to be gliding, or waltzing, around the office. Some afternoons, she would be on the phone verifying the names of the people in the photos from the rally I had covered the day before. Thus my first lesson when covering the confetti rallies: Always get names, titles, affiliations, phone numbers. She would be a stickler for accuracy, grammar and proper punctuations. When we had the Agrava board on the cover, *Tita* Eggie was frantic for blurbs. "Is it *cuadro de jack*? The queen and her court? The queen of hearts?"

She was also excitable. A tip about Cory going to Ayala or Ateneo, or wherever it was, and *Tita* Eggie would egg us on: "*Oy, punta na kayo ni* Mandy, *dali, dali*!" She had this thirst for details, facts, a story, for that matter. Once, a tabloid reporter came to her with an ex-convict who claimed to have donated a kidney to Marcos. Tita Eggie had the ex-convict temporarily housed at the condominium for which she had paid the down payment and three months' advance rental for Candy Quimpo, Francoise Joaquin and myself, all staffers of Mr and Ms Special Edition. In search of a scoop, again, she sent me to Maramag, Bukidnon to fetch a cousin of Rolando Galman, the other dead man on the tarmac with NinoyAquino. The cousin was supposedly a potential witness for the Agrava Commission. *Tita* Eggie wanted to beat the Commission to the draw and sent me and Rolando Galman's mother all the way to Bukidnon. We found the Galman cousin, but alas, he refused to come to Manila. The Marcos agents had already warned him against testifying.

Growing household

There were talks then that *Tita* Eggie was running the magazine like her household. It was partly true. If we needed money for coverage, she'd pull the money from somewhere. No vouchers or checks to sign. She also fussed about her growing "household," which by then had included staffers Joey Nolasco, Raul Alibutud and JP Fenix. She worried over our safety. While covering a rally in Central Luzon, Mandy and I ended up being held in Camp Olivas, San Fernando, Pampanga. It was near midnight. Word reached Tita Eggie in Makati that her photographer and reporter needed a lawyer. At 4 a.m., a Mercedes Benz entered Camp Olivas, with two attorneys in pajamas: Joker Arroyo and Rene Saguisag.

Tita Eggie wanted stories told through people. No matter how serious the topic, she made it warm and real because she told the story through people. The oppressive martial law regime became even more vivid in Mr & Ms because *Tita* Eggie told them through the sufferings of the victims. Don't say it, show how it affects people. Years later, when I started going for hardcore, beat reporting, I often found myself inserting a paragraph or two describing how the event had affected the victim. Or writing sidebars about the people in the event to give the story a human face.

A TV reporter once asked me, how do you look for that kind of story? How do you know which story to write? Actually, I don't. I just follow what I feel. And *Tita* Eggie, I believe, has a lot to do with this.

But definitely, the woman has shaped the feisty character of journalism today, as she eschewed the perks of the crony press in favor of fearless and independent reportage. She certainly deserves this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. Q

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Luhod lang

Luhod lang daw sa Quiapo ang pinariringgan.
Luhod lang daw sa munggo ng mundo
sabay tiim-bagang dasal, tiim na tiim na nangitim na
sa mga labi ng pangkutya kay Bathala ang istorya
ng pagkalugmok sa putik ng kamalasan, nangitim
na'ng mga gilagid sa kaka-asin at minsa'y sardines,
o maari ma'y kaka-kakanggata sa katotohanan.

Luhod lang daw sa harap ng cacique o bossing
ang maaring magbunga sa bukang-liwayway
ng buhay sakada, kargador o nagtitibag ng bato.
Anak ko, anak ko! Bilog o lapad pa rito.

Luhod lang daw sa harap ng pulis o Tulfo
Upang mapigtas ang piring
Sa mga matang naglalakihan sa takot.
Hesus! Ay, Guino-o! Kalu-oy man ang kapwa
kunsintidor sa bisyo ng Lotto, patintero,
kapit-patalim na piko, tumbang preso o taguan.

Luhod lang daw sa embasi
Upang mabiyayaan ng bisa
ng pers-world na kapangyarihan,
oportunidad para sa oportunismo,
tsansang mas mahusay naman
sa bigkas ng karera ng daga.

Uy. Ayun si Diyos. Pung. Save.

Krip Yuson

by Pablo A. Tariman

The prime of Rachelle Gerodias

As she gets ready to play Tatyana in "Eugene Onegin," one of the country's leading sopranos talks about working abroad, singing for Mirella Freni—and the travails of opera singers in this country

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

AMONG HER generation of opera singers, soprano Rachelle Gerodias is one of the standouts, the most visible hereabouts and one of the most active here and abroad. She has just wrapped up the role of Susanna in the Singapore Lyric Opera (SLO) production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," which received several standing ovations. After her Singapore engagements, she had to fly to Tokyo to sing at the concert for the anniversary of Philippine-Japan diplomatic relations.

Early this year, she teamed up with tenor Otoniel Gonzaga, singer Lea Salonga and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, and got her share of the ovation.

But her latest Singapore triumph was doubly memorable. "Actually, this was Singapore's premiere performance of '*Le Nozze di Figaro*,' and so we didn't know how the Singapore audience would take it," Gerodias says. "But it was very well received. On opening night, the audience laughed and sighed with the characters of the opera. It was wonderful. The opera was truly written with great precision and wit. A true work of genius!"

The part was a big challenge, and vocally, it wasn't easy, Rachelle reports. "The biggest challenge was memorizing the singing lines in Italian," she says. "It is perhaps one of the longest soprano roles in the operatic repertoire. The other challenge was keeping my energy and the freshness of my voice for the duration of the three-and-a-half-hour-long opera. I had to sing my famous aria, '*Deh vieni non tardar*,' right at the end. That's not easy after three hours of running around and singing on stage!"

Wider market

The Mozart opera was her fourth full opera production in Singapore. Earlier, she sang Kathy ("The Student Prince"), Frasquita and Micaela ("Carmen"), and sang in several concerts with a Singapore Orchestra. SLO Chairman Leow Siak Fah heard her sing in Hong Kong earlier, and a year later, she was in Singapore, in one production after another. Another Filipina who debuted earlier in Singapore was soprano Andion Fernandez, who sang Pamina in Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

The soprano says Singapore is small compared to the Philippines, but of late, she has been seeing a wider market for classical music. She notes the big diplomatic community, and the country's frequent exposure to the arts. "I am not saying Singapore is more cultured than Manila," she points out. "Some of their artists still need training when it comes to singing. They find more talented and more professional singers in Manila, and that is why we are in demand in Singapore. But in that country, there is more effort to appreciate opera and to market classical music. They know that these things are of primary importance."

Rachelle notes that the SLO produces at least two operas a year. She asks a critical question: "How many operas has Manila produced in the last 10 years?" While the country boasts of first-rate talents in opera, from soprano Evelyn Mandac (the first and last Filipina to sing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York) to tenor Otoniel Gonzaga (the first Filipino tenor to sing "Othello"), the state of opera in the country is either dead or dying. The concert seasons in Manila have very little use for opera singers, and that's the reason behind the exodus of the new generation of opera talents to other countries—soprano Andion Fernandez and baritone Jonathan Zaens in Berlin and baritone Andrew Fernando in Los Angeles, for example.

"We really need funds and more funds to be able to mount operas," Rachelle says. "Aspiring opera singers in Manila need to be inspired. They have to be assured that there are jobs awaiting them when their studies are done. There has to be regular training, as well. How can you train opera singers when there are no productions at all?"

A welcome project, therefore, is singing Tatyana in Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Sept. 29,30 and 31 for the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music. This is the first time Rachelle will sing a Tchaikovsky heroine. "Tatyana is another challenge for me," she says. "I will sing it in Russian, and at the CCP main theater at that. I love the music, especially the Letter Scene." Tatyana remains strong even if she is largely ignored by the man she expresses love for.

Diva in training: With renowned Italian soprano Mirella Freni

Love stories

Can she relate to the heroine in terms of attitude and outlook? Rachelle, 34, says she used to be like Tatyana, a hopeless romantic who believed in love stories you only read in novels. "But I am more realistic now," she qualifies with a laugh. "I guess that's how it is when you get older. I can also relate to Tatyana's strong personality. Disappointments in life did not stop her from moving on. She was able to live her life well, even after she was rejected by Onegin. She was also strong in her decision to remain faithful to her husband."

The soprano doesn't rule out love in her own life, a life dominated by music. She says she could find time for love if the man shares her principles. That means he must not only love her; he has to appreciate her love for music. Does she believe an artist's personal happiness should come second only to her music? The answer, surprisingly, is a big no. "My personal happiness comes first, or else I will not be effective as an artist. I must find my own inspiration first before I can inspire others."

The prospect of a life outside music, however, is an unthinkable one. "Funny, but your question made me think if I actually have a life outside of music! Outside of my singing and teaching voice, I actually try to spend more time with my family. We all go to the same church, the Novaliches Unida Evangelical Church, where my brother is a pastor and I serve as president of the Music Minsistry. Besides that, I like eating out with friends and watching good movies. This is my only way of relaxing. I also try to go to the gym regularly if my schedule allows it."

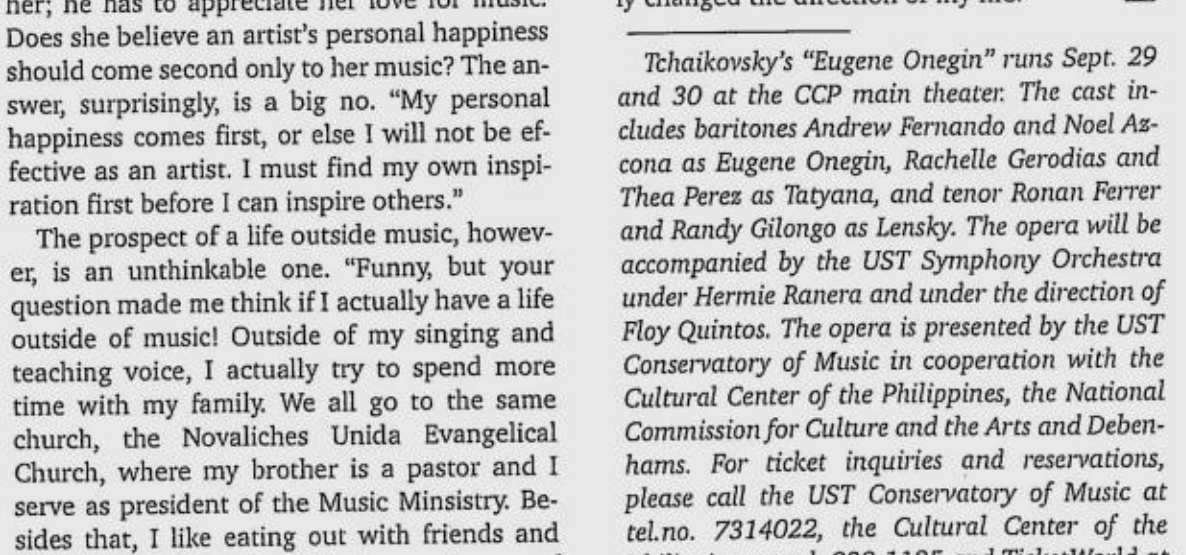
After "Eugene Onegin," Gerodias is off to Italy to participate in two productions of the Ravenna Festival. It was in one master class in Italy that she met the last of the great divas after Maria Callas and Renata Tebaldi, Mirella Freni. La Freni was last heard at the National Opera in Washington D.C. in "The Merry Widow" opposite Placido Domingo—whose cover was none other than Otoniel Gonzaga. Freni, who has been Rachelle's idol since her UST college days, was the Mimi in the first CD of "La Boheme" that Gerodias ever owned. "I just loved her voice, and to sing for her live, and to be able to study with her in person, was a dream come true and an awesome experience for me."

Master class

In that master class, Freni asked Rachelle to sing the Mozart aria from "Figaro." The great diva corrected a few Italian words and made her sing the entire aria again. The teacher also made comments in Italian, and Rachelle heard the word "Filipina" in it. When she asked another Italian singer what Freni said, the classmate said, "Oh, she was commenting on your singing. She said you are Filipina, and Italian is not your first language, but your Italian is much clearer and more expressive than the Italians."

It was a defining moment for this young woman, whose life has indeed been all about a talent and love for music. "Music has been a part of my life since I was a child singing in the church choir. But I never thought of becoming a professional singer. I used to be very shy and timid. The mere thought of singing in public scared me. I wanted to do something else. But for some reason, God directed my path to music. When I decided to take up music, a whole new world opened up to me—and it completely changed the direction of my life."

Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" runs Sept. 29 and 30 at the CCP main theater. The cast includes baritones Andrew Fernando and Noel Azcona as Eugene Onegin, Rachelle Gerodias and Thea Perez as Tatyana, and tenor Ronan Ferrer and Randy Gilongo as Lensky. The opera will be accompanied by the UST Symphony Orchestra under Hermie Ranera and under the direction of Floy Quintos. The opera is presented by the UST Conservatory of Music in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Debenhams. For ticket inquiries and reservations, please call the UST Conservatory of Music at tel.no. 7314022, the Cultural Center of the Philippines at tel. 832-1125 and TicketWorld at tel. 891-9999.



A passion for music: With conductor Julian Quirit and tenor Otoniel Gonzaga at the CCP

by Raymond Lee

On the road with *Maxi*

Coming out: The author at the South American premiere of Maxi in Santiago, Chile; below, a still from the film, starring the wonderful Nathan Lopez

Lessons learned—and imparted—on the international film festival circuit, with one of the most successful Filipino indie films of all time

IT'S BEEN a year since Maxi first came out to the world at the Montreal *Festival des Films du Monde* (Montreal World Film Festival). "*Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros*," the film we had just made under Cinemalaya, was in the competition for first-time filmmakers.

At our first screening abroad, in French-speaking Montreal, I thought we had died. The audience was so deathly quiet. I couldn't help but compare the experience to the screenings we had just had in Manila, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the University of the Philippines Cine Adarna. The Filipino audiences in those venues, the first ones to meet Maxi, were anything but staid. They didn't hold back on laughing, cheering, and even stomping on the floor. Some even talked back to Maxi on the screen.

Our international premiere was a far, and deafeningly silent, cry. I kept going in and out of the cinema and into the bathroom next door. Maybe something got lost in the translation. Maybe we should have had French subtitles made on top of the English. I started talking to myself. "At least they love it in the Philippines."

Final fade out

After 100 agonizing minutes came the final fade out—to a black almost as black as I was feeling. Another moment of accursed silence, and then the audience broke out in applause. It didn't sound like merely polite applause. It sounded genuine, and warm.

I went outside to thank the audience as they were leaving. They started queuing up—to congratulate our director Auraeus Solito and me. "*Trés, trés bel*!" "Beautiful!" "It was wonderful." "*C'est magnifique*." We alternated between "Thank you!" and "*Merci*!"

It only got slightly less nerve-wracking with each succeeding screening. I felt more at ease when there were Filipinos in the audience. In Sundance, Filipinos thankfully spread themselves throughout the screening room, and the effect was like that in "Finding Neverland," in the scene where the Peter Pan author seated orphan children next to big-shot theater patrons. When the orphans started laughing at the goings-on onstage, their puffy, jaded seatmates started getting tickled, too. That's the Filipino spirit: childlike and infectious.

In Berlin, Germany, things got even better. Aside from the many Filipinos who graced the screenings, children made up about half the audience. We were programmed in the Kinderfilmfest, the children's section of the Berlin International Film Festival. It was a surprising but bold programming decision that paid off. Children reacted the strongest, and clapped the loudest and longest. They got Maxi, and loved him. Some didn't. A woman spoke up in a Q&A that followed a screening. In machine-gun German, she mowed down the programmers and took them to task for scheduling what she thought was such an inappropriate, damaging work in a children's film festival. A boy Maxi's age came to the rescue. In English, he said, "It's cool!"

In the same festival Maxi went on to win the top prize in the Kinderfilmfest and the Teddys (Berlinale's gay awards)—the first time the Best Children's Film and Best Gay Film prizes went to one film.

Designer labels

In New York there's a 35-year-old film festival called New Directors/New Films. It is a non-competitive festival that selects 25 films each year. They are proud of the fact that they showed the early works of the likes of Spielberg, Almodovar, and others before their names became designer labels in the film world. Our own Lino Brocka and Mike de Leon showed their works there. This year, for the first time, there were two Filipino films (both indie!) in one edition—"The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros" (that's our English title) and "Cavite." For the first time, too, a Filipino film (Maxi) was selected to be one of the two Opening Films at the Museum of Modern Art. (The other Opening Film was the American film "Half Nelson," also indie, also by first-time filmmakers.)

In the film festivals that followed I was happy to see other recent Filipino films—all of them indie!— in the program. "*Masahista*" (The Masseur) and "*Mga Pusang Gala*" (Stray Cats) were in the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and New York's Newfest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, respectively. The visionary work "*Indio Nacional*" by Raya Martin was in the San Francisco International Film Festival with Maxi. In the Santiago Festival Internacional de Cine (SANFIC) in Chile, a midnight show featured the deliciously insane "*Ang Pamilyang Kumakain ng Lupa*" (The Family That Eats Soil) by Khavn de la Cruz.

Filipinos trooped to the screenings of these films, dragging their American/German/Chilean friends, boyfriends, foreign-born children. Several Pinoy trannies (transsexual, transvestite, or the more correct term, transgender) graced a particularly beautiful screening of Maxi at the Museum of the American Indian in New York. Someone in the audience corrected another and said, emphatically, "Maxi is not gay. He is transgender!"

On the road with Maxi, the flow of information was not one-way. In the Q&As, I got as good as I gave; I learned about the audiences' culture as much as I shared ours with them.

Standing ovation

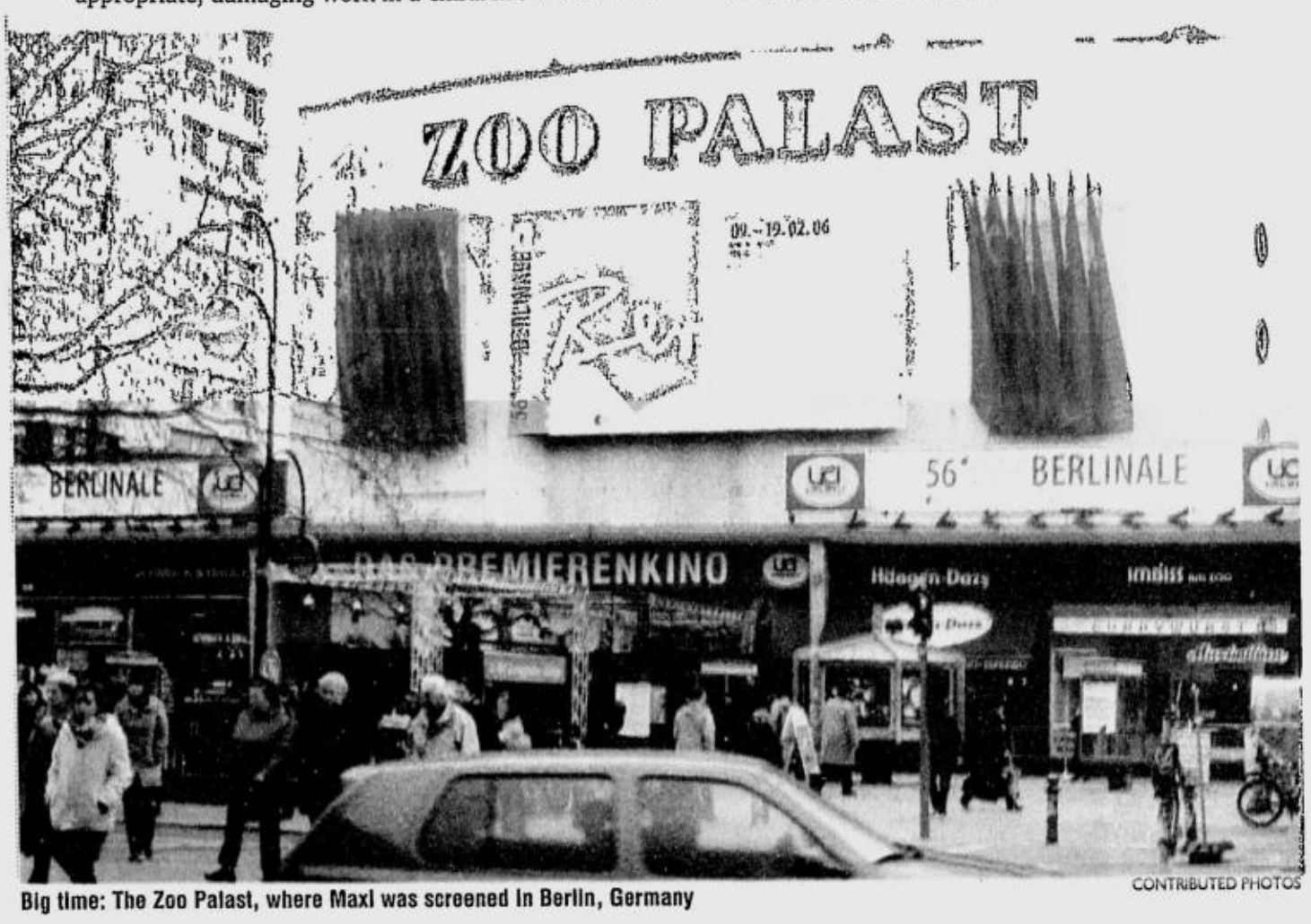
The US audience invariably expressed a mixture of surprise at and admiration for the Filipinos' laid-back openness and acceptance of difference. Aren't we strictly Catholic? I tried to answer this by saying that we Filipinos were not entirely corrupted by religion. That many of us still went to church on Sundays, listened to the sermons, but we went home and did our own thing anyway. Another subject that kept cropping up was the friendship between *Kuya* Victor and Maxi. They pointed out that in American society, an adult man and a pre-pubescent boy hanging out together was not only frowned upon; it was considered taboo. There goes the American remake, I guess. Or maybe not. At a screening in Provincetown, Massachusetts—a known gay and lesbian resort town—some in the audience gave Maxi a standing ovation. One of them declared, "I AM MAXI."

Santiago de Chile, despite being literally at the other end of the world (the flight, with three transfers, took almost 40 hours), is a kindred city to Manila, given our similar histories of Spanish colonization. Incredibly they have a worse sense of time than we do—none of the many clocks they have outdoors, not one, told the right time. They, too, were easy-going and friendly, only a lot more conservative. They expressed wonderment at how loving and accepting Maxi's family is despite his gayness. In Chile, they said, most gays were still in the closet, and gay bashing was not uncommon.

Suddenly a middle-aged man stood up and addressed the full house in all earnest purposefulness: "*Soy* gay!" (I'm gay!) And then he expressed his wish to see Chile grow to become more like the Philippines where gays were accepted and respected.

To keep things real, I said that there were also incidents of discrimination against gays in my country, that it was by no means a utopia for gays. Hearing what they had to say, though, made me reconsider and think that, yeah, maybe the Philippines was Heaven in that way, at least. Next stop: the mountains, plains, and islands of Maxi's own backyard paradise, where laughing like there's no tomorrow is anything but taboo.

Raymond Lee is the producer/co-writer of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," *which was recently chosen as the Philippines' official entry to the 2007 Oscars. "Maxi" has gone to 36 film festivals and has won 12 international awards. It will be shown again in theaters starting September 20.*

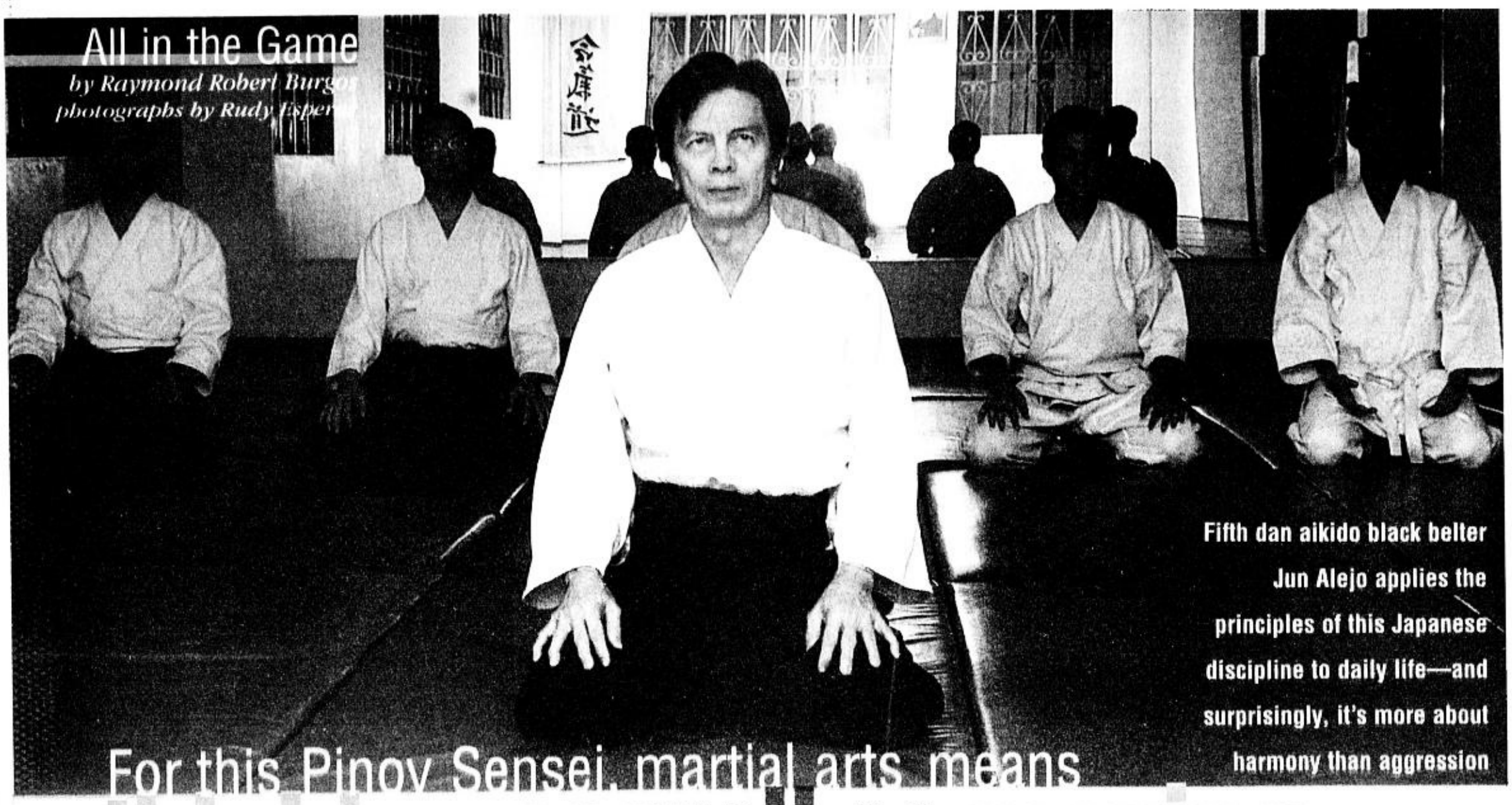


CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Big time: The Zoo Palast, where Maxi was screened in Berlin, Germany

All in the Game

by Raymond Robert Burgos
photographs by Rudy Lisperguer



Fifth dan aikido black belter Jun Alejo applies the principles of this Japanese discipline to daily life—and surprisingly, it's more about harmony than aggression

For this Pinoy Sensei, martial arts means thinking as well as moving

JUCIO Alejo Jr., or simply "Jun" to his friends, is a hands-on businessman who goes to his office daily, checks on the progress of his electrical firm's ongoing projects, and diligently looks after the finances of the company which he helped build 28 years ago.

An electrical engineer who owns Alecto General Technology Corporation, Alejo, like other typical CEOs, loves playing golf whenever he feels like going to the greens with his regular golfing buddies. In fact, he is the current chairman of the Electrical Engineers Golf Association, Inc.

Alejo's first love, however, remains Aikido, the Japanese martial art popularized by Hollywood actor and seventh dan black belt Aikido practitioner Steven Seagal when he came out with his movie debut in 1988.

Now the holder of a fifth dan black belt, Alejo started learning Aikido in April 1983, and immediately got hooked on the martial art, which literally means "way of harmony" (*"aiki"* means harmony and *"do"* means way).

Gym buff

Before getting into Aikido, Alejo was already a regular gym buff at the YMCA-Makati, where he joined the Physical Fitness Club some time in October 1981 and became active in various physical fitness programs in the organization.

It was during a demonstration of different martial arts at the YMCA in February 1983 that he quickly became enamored with the beauty of the circular and fluid movements that characterize Aikido, which also differentiate it from other martial arts like Karate and Taekwondo.

Alejo would later learn that the circular movements are based on the philosophy expounded by Aikido's founder, Morihei Ueshiba, that you never use force to counter any attack, since this could result in mutual injury and even death.

"To injure an opponent is to injure yourself. To control aggression without inflicting injury is the essence of Aikido," Alejo says, quoting Ueshiba, who is known to practitioners as O-Sensei or great teacher.

Alejo was actually a late convert to the martial art. He was already 33—quite old to get into the more aggressive martial arts like Karate, Taekwondo and even Judo. Thanks to his workouts, however, his body was able to take all the rolling and falling, required skills for the safe practice of Aikido.

His first Aikido teacher was John Havan, a Frenchman who was also the teacher of INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo, himself a third dan black belt with whom Alejo remains friends. (Havan still teaches martial arts today, but a more aggressive style of self-defense.)

Fortunately for Alejo, Aikido is one martial art that is age-friendly, meaning you can start practicing it as long as you are physically fit. It is thus not surprising to see that many Filipino black belt holders in the country are in their forties and fifties, since it would take at least 12 years of continuous practice to be able to attain the highest grade in an examination, which is fourth dan. Black belt holders in Aikido are entitled to wear the *hakama*, a Japanese split skirt, traditionally worn by the ancient samurai.

Black belt

Alejo got his first black belt (*shodan*) in March 1985, the same month that he turned 35. In February 1997, at the age of 47, he earned his fourth dan, which is the last rank given through examinations.

Last January, Alejo was one of four senior Filipino *aikidokas* who were conferred fifth dan rank by virtue of their long and continuous practice and valuable contributions to Aikido. The rank was awarded by the *Doshu* (head master/keeper of the way) Moriteru Ueshiba, chairman of the World Aikido Federation based in Tokyo, Japan. Moriteru is the grandson of Aikido's founder.

Born on March 10, 1950 in Paco, Manila, Alejo was a product of the public school system, graduating from the Justo Lukban Elementary School and later the Araullo High School. His keen interest in mathematics and the sciences, particularly physics and chemistry, enabled him to enroll at the Mapua Institute of Technology, where he earned his degree in Electrical Engineering in 1972.

Alejo got his professional license as an electrical engineer in 1987. His good reputation among electrical engineers contributed much to the success of his firm, Alecto, a well-known and highly-trusted general technology company.

At 56, with a rather small frame for a man of 5'8", Alejo can still throw students much larger than him by adhering to the Aikido principle of moving from one's center, the hip region. This is why Alejo always focuses on the need to move from the hips in executing any move whenever he teaches at his *dojo*, located at the multi-purpose hall of Barangay Valenzuela in Makati.

"If you are well-centered, your whole body will move in a coordinated manner, and you will see that techniques are very easy to execute," Alejo explains.

Easy to execute

To prove his point, Alejo uses the *bokken*, a Japanese wooden sword, to demonstrate how powerful one can be if he holds the sword the way the ancient samurais did in their era. (O-Sensei has taught that most of the techniques in Aikido were derived from the movements using the samurai sword or *katana*.)

True enough, an Aikido move becomes light and easy to execute if one keeps his arms close to his body, and not higher than his forehead.

Alejo says that his perseverance in Aikido has taught him many valuable lessons, which help him not only in running his company, but in dealing with his employees and friends as well as clients.

"Aikido is not only rich in techniques, but has a deep philosophy which can be applied to our daily lives, especially when it comes to conflict resolution," says Alejo, who is the chief *sensei* (teacher or instructor) at the Valenzuela Aikido Club.

He has also applied the same principles to his golf games, and reports that his swings have become stronger, making him hit the ball much farther, to the consternation of his golfing buddies.

It was only a few years ago, however, when he truly discovered for himself the power of one's center. It was while practicing in the Aikido headquarters in Tokyo, Japan that Alejo was made to realize that, after more than 20 years of practice and a fourth dan black belt, he could not take on a Japanese *sensei* much older and smaller than him.

"I was really embarrassed," he recalls. "I told myself that I should not allow this to happen again." The humbling experience prompted Alejo to analyze his technique, and this led to the discovery of the power of the center, which could be further enhanced by regular practice with the *bokken*, combined with basic footwork in Aikido.

It is this emphasis on "moving from the center" that differentiates Alejo's style of teaching from that of other *dojos*.

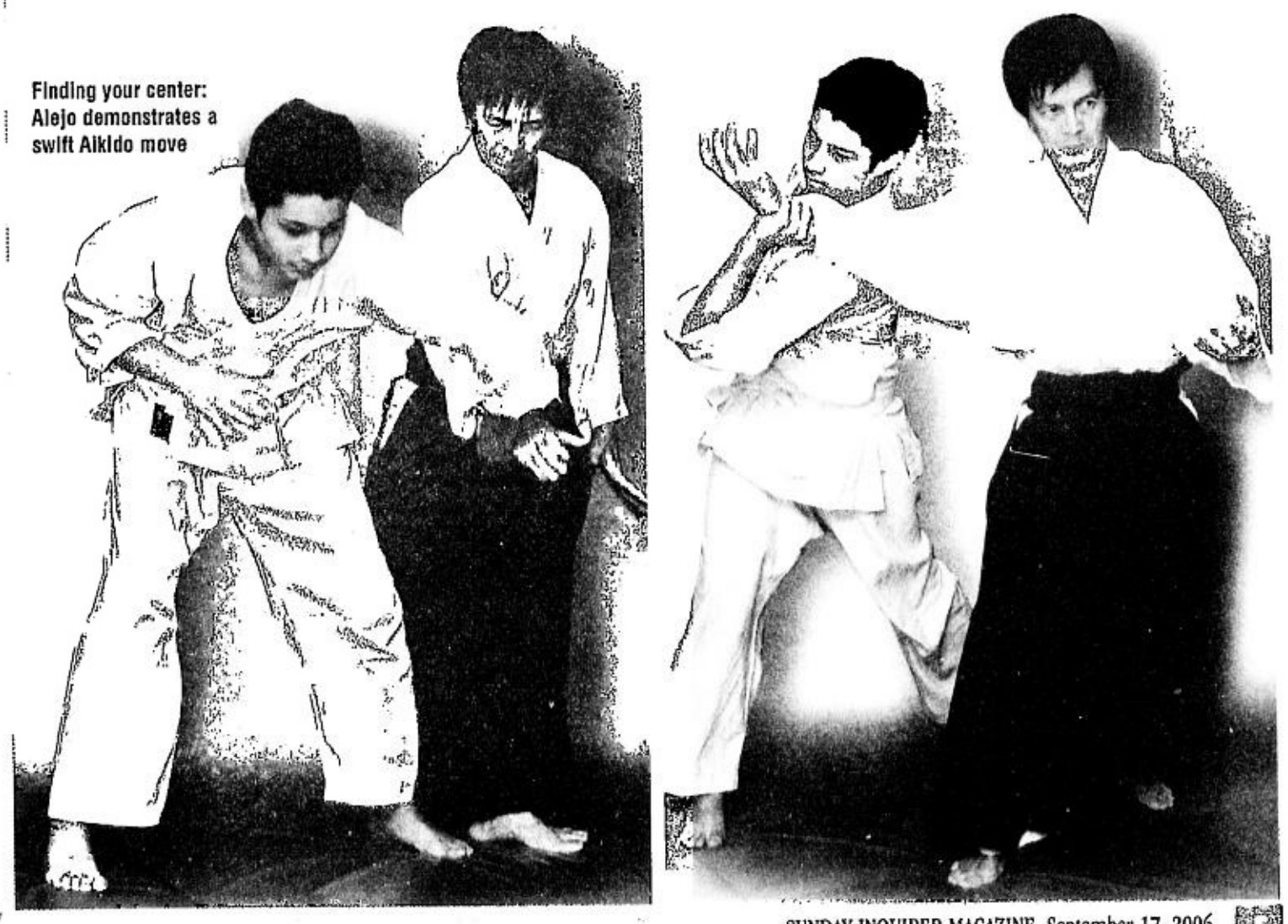
Alejo cautions that his brand of teaching cannot be easily appreciated by beginners. "What I teach is more for the appreciation of our black belt students, so that they can practice in any *dojo* without fear." In the 18 years or so that he has been teaching, Alejo notes that beginning teenage *aikidokas* tend to be more aggressive and more physical as compared to older neophytes, who are more focused and use their brains more than physical strength.

Valuable lessons

Alejo also observes that students who have excelled in Aikido and go up the ranks are those who continuously practice, even at home, in preparation for the next practice session. "One of the valuable lessons I learned in Aikido is that in every undertaking, one should practice diligence and remain focused," Alejo says.

His dream is for the next generation of *aikidokas*, especially those who are products of his own *dojo*, to grow in their pursuit of Aikido and to understand its relevance to living a better life. "I want to ensure that the wisdom entrusted to us is passed on intact, and will thrive long after us. This will be our source of pride and satisfaction—that we have truly done our duties as *senseis*." With Alejo's guidance, there may be an entire generation of thinking martial artists on the horizon.

Those who want to know more about Aikido and learning it can call Norman Piguerra at cell no. 0918-9168369.



Finding your center: Alejo demonstrates a swift Aikido move

Green...*from page 1*

scratch. We have learned lessons from previous oil spills, especially that in Semirara last year, where indigenous materials were fashioned into booms."

The response to appeals for help was heartwarming, notes the Green Forum leader, with local government officials, civic associations, schools and business groups, media and scientists stepping forward to lend a hand. By the time President Arroyo broke her silence on the spill almost two weeks after the disaster, the clean-up of beaches and food distribution had been ongoing in Guimaras.

One of the areas that had to be saved fast was Taclong Island, a national marine sanctuary managed by the University of the Phippines-Visayas. Other areas were as valuable. Barangay Tando has a 20-hectare sea grass bed, the biggest in Guimaras, where sightings of sea cows have been reported by the locals.

Good things

But good things can come from disasters, says Purzuelo. The oil spill disaster has shown the best of the Ilonggos in their concern for Guimaras and the environment.

While most folk in Guimaras joined the clean-up operations because of the daily P200 paid them by Petron, which had subcontracted the damaged tanker to ferry the bunker fuel, Purzuelo says the disaster also helped the people learn more about themselves and their environment. It's an oddly cleansing process, he says of the painstaking efforts of Guimarasnons to wipe bunker oil from leaves in the damaged mangrove, scoop out oil from dying sea grass beds, or rescue hapless lobsters blackened by the grimy oil on the beach.

Other volunteers, most of them students, have expressed willingness to help in the clean-up efforts, but Green Forum has discouraged them from doing so. They fear for the people's health, says Purzuelo. They might get sick from inhaling the oil fumes or from touching the bunker fuel without protective masks, gloves and boots. They might also unwittingly disturb the mangrove areas, the sea grass beds and the local population. Yet people still go to Guimaras to see for themselves the effects of the oil spill.

Purzuelo: The ill effects of the oil spill can least from three to 30 years

Green Forum has established a unique bond with most of the communities affected by the spill, explains its leader. These communities and Green Forum were both involved in a mapping exercise organized by some local government units and the non-government organization (NGO) Save the Children a few years ago. The map, a three-dimensional representation of communities, their topography and resources, including mangroves, corals and sea grasses, is a tool meant to raise awareness on the environment.

That same map can help in the rehabilitation program in Guimaras, says Purzuelo. Already, Green Forum has started talks with NGOs that are into bio-intensive gardening, which has been tried in many eroded areas in Panay. Some communities might also go into the production of organic fertilizer while waiting for their fishing grounds to become fertile again.

Shoulder the costs

As an environmental activist, Purzuelo wants Petron and the owners of MT Solar I to shoulder the costs of clean-up and rehabilitation so that local communities won't be burdened further. He also wants transparency in the distribution of compensation for affected families and communities. Green Forum, he adds, supports the legal battle that will be waged against those responsible for the oil spill.

Ironically, Purzuelo's activism in preserving the environment comes from his early exposure to the extraction of nature's resources. He grew up amidst the clang of metal in his family's junk shop. His father worked with an uncle who was among the first in the scrap metal business in the 1950s. When Purzuelo's parents got married in 1961, they built their own scrap yard near the Iloilo Terminal Market.

"As a young boy I could differentiate metals by their sound, hardness, appearance and color. In high school at Don Bosco Technical Institute in Victorias, Negros Occidental, I was trained in machine shop operations," he reveals.

Purzuelo recalls that his father impressed on him that metal works is key to industrialization, which could contribute to growth in the country.

It thus seemed natural for him to study metallurgical engineering at Mapua Institute of Technology. But in the 1980s, he was also swept by the wave of student activism, although he saw things in a different light. After joining the Science and Technology Society, his agenda was national development through research, science and technology.

His activism was further forged when he had on-the-job training at the Atlas Mines in Toledo, Cebu in 1985. Atlas used to be the largest copper mines in Asia at that time and was producing substantial gold and silver. But the company, he claims, had fallen short in addressing the complaints of its rank and file workers.

Newfound activism

His newfound activism also drove him to drop out of ROTC (he couldn't stand the corruption, he says), and his Spanish classes. The twin moves were a protest both against martial law and the remaining vestige of colonialism in the school system, adds Purzuelo, who never got to graduate from MIT.

He soon met and married Danette Taborno, with whom he has five children—Danielle, 14; Teresa, 12; Melvin Jr., 10; Albert, 6, and Gabriel, 3.

As head of Green Forum, Purzuelo says he combines the indigenous and the modern, the traditional knowledge systems with modern instructions like the Global Positioning System (GPS). The latter was even renamed by the locals—"*Gamit Pang*-Survey."

"With their maps retracing the boundaries of their ancestral lands marked by rocks, bounded by streams or pointed out by the tallest trees, the indigenous peoples in Panay can argue against land grabbers from the lowland," he points out.

One month after the oil spill, Purzuelo has also reached the limits of his patience over things that don't work. Petron, he contends, now appears as a benevolent employer, instead of being liable for the environmental disaster because it has hired people to do the clean up of oil-soaked coasts.

He notes that the people affected by the oil spill remain voiceless. As such, they have been besieged and overwhelmed by "experts" from the outside. How could outsiders' science be superior to local and community-based knowledge? he asks. Nobody has even asked the locals about wind currents and sea tides in Panay Gulf and Guimaras Strait, when many of them have been boat builders, fishers and sailors all their life, he points out.

Getting the locals involved seems to be a secondary goal in the SOS Movement, which has already proven that volunteerism is alive and well in Guimaras. Already, it has mobilized hobby groups, students, community youth, fraternities, sororities, NGOs, government agencies and bank employees into contributing time, effort and resources to minimize the damage of the oil spill.

Oil booms

Empty plastic containers that could be used as floaters were collected by students from the Philippine American Progress School, Assumption, Hijas de Jesus, Central Philippine University, St. Paul's University, Iloilo National High School and MTC-St. Therese Colleges.

Students of colleges and universities in Iloilo City and polytechnic colleges in Ajuy and Concepcion have also volunteered to make the oil booms based on the designs provided by the UP Visayas School of Technology, CPU Appropriate Technology Center and the University of San Agustin College of Engineering.

Meanwhile, employees of the Fiber Industry Development Agency (FIDA), Philippine Fishport Development Agency (PFDA) and the Land Bank of the Philippines have also helped make the booms, together with employees from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, National Food Authority and the Iloilo City government. They also provided ropes, nets and sacks. The finished booms were ferried to Guimaras with help from the Iloilo provincial government.

The healing of Guimaras will take a long time because the ill effects of the oil spill can linger from three to 30 years, says Purzuelo. So far, nobody has yet figured out the cost in terms of damage to health, livelihood and the coastal marine ecosystems in Guimaras. What's easy to figure out, however, is that Guimaras' nature warriors, like Purzuelo and the Green Forum, are ready for battle.

SOS was initiated by GF-WV, Iloilo Mountaineering Club (IMC) and Iloilo Mountain Bikers Federation (IMBF) three days after Solar 1 sank off southern Guimaras. SOS Headquarters is in the BFAR Bldg, Iloilo Fishing Port Complex. Inquiries may be coursed through GF-WV at telefax (033) 337-9773.

Noteworthy

by Eric S. Caruncho

Her home cooking, Indian style

The hard-working lady behind Swagat spices up the Pinoy diet with authentic cuisine

INDIANS tend to be fussy eaters.

Hindus will eat no beef, Muslims will eat no pork, vegetarians will eat neither, and many Indian men will eat only their wives' or mothers' home cooking—whether they're home or not. No one else could have devised the fiendishly complex system whereby millions of tiffins, or lunch pails, are transported daily from individual kitchens to workplaces before the *chapattis* have grown cold.

This is probably why most culinary authorities agree that authentic Indian cuisine is found in homes, not restaurants, made from scratch from ingredients fresh from the market, with the loving hands of female family members.

"In India, if a girl doesn't know how to cook, she's not an Indian girl," says Komal Khanchandani. Khanchandani is the proprietor of Swagat ("welcome" in Hindi), one of only a handful of restaurants in Manila offering authentic Indian cuisine.

Indian food has become trendy in recent years, and many adventurous Pinoy diners have set aside their fear of spices to venture into the flavorsome world of Indian cooking. But trendy will only get your customers through the door; to keep them coming back, you need to get the right mix of good food, reasonable prices, and a pleasant atmosphere. Judging from its healthy weekday lunchtime crowd of mostly Filipino diners, Swagat has hit the right spot with its "*lutong bahay*," Indian-style. So much so that Swagat was recently named Best Indian Restaurant by the Philippine Quality Awards for Business Excellence.

"I am the chef and I know my customers, what kind of taste they have and what they like," says Khanchandani.

She first came to the Philippines with her husband Sanjay from their home in Andra Pradesh seven years ago. At that time, she had no intentions of opening a restaurant, but guests kept praising her home cooking. Eventually, she was persuaded to open a small canteen near Don Bosco, and the response was encouraging enough for her to take the plunge and open Swagat in its current location in Legazpi Village, Makati.

The menu offers both North and South Indian dishes, done Khanchandani's way. Diners can ask the chef to calibrate their spices from mild to medium to extra hot. As a Hindu, Khanchandani serves no beef, and since she runs a *halal* kitchen, no pork as well, but vegetarians are well-served by the many meatless dishes and carnivores by numerous lamb, mutton, chicken and seafood entrees.

The menu includes Indian restaurant staples such as *rogan jhosh* (mutton curry), chicken tandoori and *dal* (lentils) accompanied by sweet or salty *lassi* (yogurt shake), fresh-made nan bread and biryani rice. But diners can also choose less familiar dishes, such as *methi paneer* (fresh fenugreek leaves with cottage cheese) or the house specialty, *sangam biryani*, which is a rice pilaf with lamb and chicken. Popular desserts are *gulab jamun* (cheese balls in syrup) and kulfi ice cream, and diners often cap the meal with a cup of masala chai, tea with milk, cardamom and other spices.

Livening up the atmosphere are videos from popular Bollywood movies and piped-in filmi music. Authentic Indian décor also contributes to the festive mood. But what keeps customers coming back is the food.

"I love to cook, and when I see my customers eating and their faces are brightening, I'm very happy to see them like that," says Khanchandani.

Swagat is at 119 FCC Building, Rada St., Legazpi Village, Makati City, tel. nos. 752-5669 and 888-2560.

MILO SOGUECO

Fresh and hot: Khanchandani and some Swagat favorites

LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

Finding the truth and forgiveness

Would he still believe me if I tell him I loved him then, and I love him still? And above all, how can I help him clear his reputation, which we all ruined?

Dear Joe,

Even after 11 years, I'm still in love with my twin brother's close friend. He also happens to be my worst enemy. I was 15 when my parents decided to move to my father's hometown. There I met Trace, a 16-year-old guy. Being poor wasn't really an issue for us, since he was very kind, respectful and handsome. The feelings I had for him grew when he saved my brother's life when some people tried to harm him. My parents looked at him as a good son and a role model for us. Falling for him wasn't hard.

Things changed one day when Trace, my dad, my brother and three of their friends were heading home. They were all drunk, and accidentally swerved into the other lane, hitting another car. My dad was killed right then and there.

People blamed Trace for my father's death because he was the person behind the wheel. I killed what I felt for him. Trace was detained at a local juvenile detention center for a year, until the case was dismissed. Life was never the same again. I hated Trace so much, Joe. Even all my relatives hated him, except for my mom, who believed that Trace was innocent.

Eleven years may have passed, but the memories are still vivid. My father's untimely death was all too painful, and now I have to deal with my mom's death, too. She died of cancer. Why is it that everyone I love is taken away from me? When my mom's last will and testament was read, Trace was there. I couldn't believe my mom gave him 25 percent of our company stock. My brother almost freaked out when he heard what the lawyer said. Our lawyer gave Trace an envelope, and he silently read the letter inside it. I hated him, Joe, but deep in my heart, his presence overwhelmed me. I had often fantasized about what he would look like after a decade. And there he was, looking more handsome than ever, still the man of my dreams. Every time we see each other, he would always say he was sorry because he didn't kill Dad, and that he wished I could read my mom's letter to him.

One Sunday afternoon, I went to the lawyer's office just to see that letter. I was shocked with what the letter contained. My mom was apologizing for causing Trace so much pain. As it turned out, Mom and Trace both knew that my own brother was responsible for my dad's death, and that Trace was merely trying to cover up for what my brother did. My mom just had to protect my brother because he was still her son. And that was why mom gave 25 percent of our company stocks to Trace. It was my mom's way of saying how sorry she was for all that's happened.

I cried after I finished reading it. No wonder Mom believed that Trace was innocent. She knew what happened. I discovered that Mom helped him get out of that mess, and that Trace now owns a business. I wanted to say sorry to Trace for my brother's insensitivity, for my stupidity and for all of my relatives' wrong judgment. But how can I explain it to him, now that he also hates us? He resigned from his business because he wanted to give the shares back to us. Is there any room left for forgiveness? Will he still believe me if I tell him I loved him then, and I love him still? And above all, how can I help him clear up his reputation, which we all ruined? Please help me, Joe, I don't know what to do.

Bench

Dear Bench,

What fuelled you and your family's hatred for Trace was ignorance—ignorance of the truth behind your father's death and everything that happened after that. Hatred was like a fire that consumed you. It kept you from accepting facts, and it kept you from forgiving.

Paying in prison for a crime he didn't commit was more than enough sacrifice. I don't think there are many like Trace, who would be willing to sacrifice his own life just to save another. Your brother was lucky because Trace did it for you, and only for you.

Bench, I really don't think that Trace hates you for feeling that way. You have been a prisoner of lies for 11 years, and it is only now that you have discovered the truth, and now that you know the truth, you are finally free. It is what you do now that will make the difference. Honestly, I believe that there is always room for forgiveness for those who sincerely ask for it. Talk to Trace and tell him how sorry you are for only finding out the truth now. Tell him what you felt for him before and what you still feel for him. I don't think money or his shares would matter so much now. What is important is that we seek peace with those we have been unjust to. What is important is that we forgive those who have caused us pain. What is important is we show how we feel to those we love.

Bench, let this be the start of a new beginning and a new purpose to live. Let us always remember that only the truth can set us free from the bitterness of the past and the pain that hatred brings. Only forgiveness can bring us the real peace of mind that we are searching for. And in the end, only love can spell the difference between winning or losing the people who truly mean a lot to us.

This Week

Art

Eight leading cartoonists from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines have put their keen wit into 80 new cartoon works depicting the IT situations in their respective nations in the **9th Asian Cartoon Exhibition: How's IT in Asia** until Sept. 24 at the 4th Level, Shaw Hallway, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City. Representing the Philippines is graphic designer Bayani "Barry" Jose.

The Ayala Museum will present the **Homecoming Exhibition of 21st Asian International Art Exhibition Filipino** delegates from Sept. 19 to Oct. 1. The Filipino artists include Ben Cabrera, Virgilio Aviado, James Gabito, Sid Gomez Hildawa, Winner Jumalon, Ramon Orlina, Susan Fetalvero Roces, Clairelynn Uy, Lydia Velasco, Priscillano Vicaldo, Jr. and Jevijoe Vitug.

Cinema

The **4th Australian Film Festival** unveils 14 critically-acclaimed feature and short films until Sept. 22. "Somersault" unreels the festival which won 13 awards at the prestigious Australian Film Institute. Completing the roster of films include "Two Hands," "Erskineville Kings," "Dirty Deeds." "Three Dollars," "Radiance," "Swimming Upstream," "Bootmen" and "The Rage in Placid Lake." This year's list of short films include the 2006 Oscar-nominated "The Mysterious Explorations of Jasper Morello," "Green Bush," "Danya" and "Crooked Mick." The films will be screened at Greenbelt 3 Cinema 1, University of the Philippines-Cine Adarna and Ayala Onstage at the Ayala Center Cebu. Admission fee is P50 at Greenbelt 3. For screening schedules, log on to www.australia.com.ph or call 757-8173 and 757-8135.

Onstage

Repertory Philippines presents two classic comedies by Anton Chekhov: **The Boor** and **The Proposal**, showing at Rep's Globe Theatre at Onstage Greenbelt 1 on Sept. 17 and Oct. 8 at 3:30 p.m. and Oct. 7 at 8 p.m. ickets are available at the Rep office at 887-0710 and at Ticketworld (tel. 891-9999).

Gantimpala Theater Foundation presents the folk tale ***Ibong Adarna***. Performances are on Sept. 17 (Concert at the Park Open-Air Auditorium, Luneta, Manila); Sept. 22-24, 29-30 (10 a.m./2 p.m., AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, QC); Oct. 6-8 (10 a.m./2 p.m., SM Southmall, Las Piñas City). For bookings and ticket reservations, call 899-5745 and 896-3503.

The Iyengar Yoga Center Manila starts a beginners' course this month

Atbp

The Center for Migrant Youth celebrates its **24th anniversary** today. Join them for Mass at 9 a.m. in their new address at #15 Goldman St., East Fairview Village, QC and remember together 24 years of friendship.

The **Iyengar Yoga Center Manila**, the country's first center for the study of the precise and disciplined style of yoga originated by living master BKS Iyengar, will be offering a **beginners' course** from Sept. 18 to Oct. 25. Classes will be from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. Regular beginner's classes are also offered Fridays at 12:15-1:15 p.m. and Wednesdays at 5:30-6:30 p.m., while general classes for all levels are held at 6-7:30 p.m. Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, 7-8:30 a.m. Thursdays (subject to confirmation) and 6-7:30 p.m. Fridays. The Iyengar Yoga Center Manila is on the 21st Floor, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati. Call or text 0917-5359711 for details.

Poet Rogelio G. Mangahas' new book, ***Gagambo sa Uhay: Kalipunan ng mga Haiku***, will be launched by C & E Publishing, Inc and UMPIL on Sept. 21, 3 p.m. at the Balay Kalinaw, Up Diliman with former DepEd Undersecretary Dr. Isagani Cruz as guest speaker. For details, contact Joy Cuales at tel. no. 928-4108.

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	4					6	8	
7				5				4
2				8				
			6		5			
	6	5				2	1	
			2		9			
				4				6
9				6				2
	8	1					9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 9/17

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Answer to previous puzzle

2	3	7	6	5	9	8	1	4
4	5	1	8	2	3	9	7	6
8	9	6	4	1	7	2	5	3
6	4	8	2	9	5	7	3	1
5	7	2	3	6	1	4	9	8
3	1	9	7	4	8	5	6	2
1	2	5	9	3	4	6	8	7
9	8	4	1	7	6	3	2	5
7	6	3	5	8	2	1	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, September 17, 2006

SAT|SUN 9 PM

Pinakamalupet Idol

ABC

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	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	Onstage
ABC 5	Ringside TV	PBA	Letty La Mas Fab	Todo Max	Shall We Dance	Philippine Idol	Ms. Asian Tourism Pinoy Dream Academy	Sunday's Best	
ABS-CBN 2	Star Song Ang Bagong Kambal Ko	Lovespell	The Buzz	TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit	Rated K	Sharon			CSI: NY (Season 2)	CSI: Miami (Season 4)	
AXN		The Man In The Iron Mask				Fear Factor (Season VI)		World's Most Amazing Videos	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)			
Cartoon Network		Cams Lanbo (7:15PM)	Tom & Jerry Show, Tom & Jerry Tales	Baby Looney Tunes	Powerpuff Girls	Robotboy	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Power Rangers Dino Thunder, Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinema One				Kaya				Tá There Was You					Exodus		Bahay Ni Lola 2			
Cinemax			The Blues Brothers					Killing Time (5:50PM)		Above The Law (7:25 PM)		Bandolier Galactica Mission 11			The Shadow (10:25PM)		
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia		World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime&Suspense		I, Detective	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Cold Case Law Firm		Treasure Hunters		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	The Grid/ Oz	Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		How Do They Do It	Building The Impossible	American Chopper		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific Signature Series		Discovery Sunday		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Bily & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery/ Hannah Montana	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Susan Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean	Wonderful World Of Disney			America's Funniest Home Video	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney
ESPN		Major League Baseball Friday						Watersports Programming Hot Wire		LPGA Golf Wendy's Champion Children 3rd Rd				Major League Baseball Sunday Selection				
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated Ohl 5	American Dreams		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 3		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runway 2	Nip/ Tuck 3	Rated Ohl	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blow Out 2		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		Cold Turkey 2		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	Nanny 911		The Director	West Wing	NBC Nightly News	Hollywood Chit Chat Diva
EWTN	Defending Life	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dos	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore	Life is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Mountain With John Katsch		The Line Up		The Journal Editorial Report	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday					Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Pinoy Mass Word		Mel & Joey		All Star K	Daddy Di Do Do	Sunday Night Box Office		
Hallmark Channel				Annie's Point				Gentle Ben: Terror On The Mountain				Wild At Heart		A Painted House		Murder 101: Deja Vu: Murder Mysteries: Under The Dragon's Tail		
HBO	Entourage 16: On, Randy	Kicking And Screaming			Bridget Jones: The Edge Of Reason				13 Going On 30 (9:25 PM)			Star Trek First Contact				Shrek 2 (9:50 PM)		Serpent Zero (11:20 PM)
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Rockman Exe	Peacemaker	Sorceror Ogihon	Scrapped Princess	Knights Romune Nil	Offside	G3	Volos V Evolution	Hero TV Theatres			Ragnarok	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Ang Bahig Hanap Mo?		EZ Shop			Home Shopping Network	Home Shopping Network		My Four Say On Cha-Cha		Pinoy Action Hits				Ito Ang Kilalungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV				Comedy Central	Premium Blend	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	Distraction	Banzai	American Dad	Family Guy	WWE Smackdown				South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers	Dr. Katz
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY Crafts	DIY Jewelry Making	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		ET Entertainment Special		Passage To Dawn				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Unsound The Dawn	Christina Aguilera Back To Basics	MTV News	MTV Meets Beyonce	Homecoming	Room Raiders	Boiling Points	Pimp My Ride	Homeroomzkie	Punkd	Widboyz	The 2006 MTV Video Music Awards						Rex In the City	Seasons The Down
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandanto	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backdrop	MYXilog
National Geographic	Storm Stories	Humans: Human Mind Floyd		Explorations Powered By Duracell	From The Heart: Antarctica	Mega Ads: Today's Film Icons		Hurricane		Expeditions Powered By Duracell	From The Heart	Mega Ads: Cradle of Civilization - Crete		Best of the Wild: Killer Leopard		Nat Geo Investigates Plague Hunters		Nat Geo Investigates: Dark Side of Elephants	
NBN		Tang na Bayan (Sining Ligaligo)						Tang ng Bayan (Live)		Congress in Action		The Working President	Under Construction	The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Special Events Coop Mahalagang Mga Okurso Ng Gobyerno Ngayon Center Cone	
Net 25	BIC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ani Sa Sibulang Lisan		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	GMTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ani Sa Sibulang Lisan		Ang Tamang Lisan		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	GMTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Mad's Dadassified School Survival Guide	Avatar Anime The Last Airbender, The Legend Of Aang Kappa Mikey	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Mad's Dadassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle/ Hamlet	Romeo/ Naturally Sadie	All That	The Brothers Garcia/ All Grown Up	The Fairly Odd Parents/ As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Kalangan kay Igme				Wedded Perfect Mother				Isha Lansing Hanyang Nuyon				OA Sa Hls				Sex Drive
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Trubaho Ka		Sunday Super Sks				Groupus TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fisforama		Pinoy Sports Idol	World Poker Tour		WWE Experience		WWE Smackdown		Ultimate Fighter		Boxing				Global Window	The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepards Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan	Gabay Al Aksyon				
Solar Sports						Pbl 9-Ball Open '06		GWS 37-2000	Sammartas Forever	China Volley Rivalry: China vs Russia FINALS				Round M Bkfr vs R Laundry / Bad Boys Boom					
Sports Plus		Bell Canadian Open Highlights		Motoring Today		RM Delong	Nopi Tunervision	Chevy Rock& Roll 400 Highlights		World Game		Worlds Greatest Bass Show Highlights		Razzworld	Bil Lumbre Classics Day3				
Star Movies			The Devil's Own (3:45 PM)				If Only (5:40 PM)				Elektra (7:20 PM)			Beauty Shop			The Wedding Date (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Office	The Office	Kevin Hill		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	NCIS		Desperate Housewives		Oprah Winfrey Show		Pamela Anderson: Her Life Story	Parkinson			Hollywood Shootout	Oprah Winfrey Show
Studio 23								Exposed		Gag Ito	Y-Spank		US Girls	Desperate Housewives	Asha Tour (10:15PM)	Badminton Extreme			Tru Calling

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Posh condominium up for grabs in BPI promo

GOOD FORESIGHT AND LUCK brought two families to enjoy dream lifestyle prizes. Rosalinda and Jonathan Aleta of Cabanatuan, and lawyer Leocadio and Marie Grace Nittoreda of Makati are the winners of the first and second draws, respectively, of the BPI Save Up, Move Up raffle promo. This piece of good news is part of BPI's month-long celebration of its 155th anniversary.

The Aletas, BPI Preferred Banking depositors of BPI Cabanatuan P. Burgos branch won P500,000. With that additional deposit in their account, the future could only look better for the Aletas.

It is a smooth ride to tomorrow for the Nittoredas, BPI depositors who won the stylish Volvo V50 with Volvo Intelligent Vehicle Architecture in the second draw of BPI Save Up, Move Up.

"BPI is celebrating its 155th year with the theme, Focusing On Your Future. In keeping with this, BPI launched the Save Up Move Up Raffle promotion to be one with our clients as they work toward their aspirations and dreams," says VP Maricris San Diego, BPI Deposits Product and Alternative Channels Marketing Head.

"There is more to come. We invite our clients to continue Saving Up as this October, one lucky BPI depositor will win a posh condominium unit in our final draw," San Diego added.

The grand prize this October is a studio unit at The Columns at Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The winner will get first class amenities as well as priceless advantages in this centrally-located condominium.

The BPI Save Up Move Up promo is open to all peso and foreign currency individual account holders who open or maintain savings, checking or time deposit accounts in BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank. Every P5,000 deposit in savings or checking, or P25,000 in a time deposit entitles a depositor to get one (1) electronic raffle coupon. The more you save, the more chances of winning.

In addition to this, a BPI Electronic Gift Card worth P1,000 will be automatically given away for every P300,000 additional or new deposit in savings or checking account.

Aspire for a wonderful future for the whole family. Let BPI bring you closer to your dreams, join BPI Save Up, Move Up today. Visit any BPI, BPI Express, BPI Family Savings Bank, Express Banking Center, call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com for more information on the promo.

FROM the expected to the exceptional! BPI Save Up, Move Up promo has doubled the deposit balance of the Aletas. Present in the awarding celebration were (from left): BPI SVP Jesus Razon, BPI Save Up, Move Up 1st draw winner Jonathan Aleta, BPI SVP Imelda Trillo, and BPI senior manager Arlene de Guzman. BPI gives away a posh condominium unit at The Columns Ayala Avenue, Makati City in its final draw this October.

FROM the conventional to the most sophisticated wheels! Congratulations to the Nittorredas for winning the stylish Volvo V-50 in the BPI Save Up, Move Up promo. Present in the awarding were (from left): BPI SVP Jesus Razon, Volvo Cars VP Lyn Buena, Volvo Cars EVP Rose Dimalanta, representing the Nittorredas were BPI executives VP Maricris San Diego and VP Brenno Dytoc.

SMART INAUGURATES WIRELESS CENTER IN CLARK

Smart Communications Inc recently inaugurated its latest wireless center in the newly opened SM Clark Mall at the Clark special Economic Zone in Pampanga. This brings to nine the total number of Smart wireless centers in Region III. Located at the 2nd floor of the SM Clark Mall, the latest addition to Smart's chain of wireless centers. It is designed to provide sales and aftersales service for all Smart products and services - including its latest offerings Smart Bro and Smart 3G - in the Northern Pampanga/Southern Tarlac area. Photo shows Smart officials in front of the newly-inaugurated wireless center. They are (from left): Myiah Ferrer, wireless center manager, SM Clark; Joy Sanchez, head, customer care group; Ito Ramirez, head, consumer affairs; Gia Palafox, senior manager, CMD; Eden Techico (partly hidden), head of wireless center operations - national; Lhaydee Lumibao, regional manager, Central Luzon wireless operations; Ernie de Leon (partly hidden) regional manager, Luzon sales group; Amie Tuazon, manager, properties and facilities engineering; Pancho Dino, head, properties and facilities engineering; Raymond Cerbas, manager, wireless center central services; and Adrien Tan, manager, technical operations.

Philippines' Broadcasters Commission TNS to set up new PeopleMeter service

TNS, A LEADING PROVIDER OF INTERNET TV & Radio Audience Measurement (iTRAM) services, has announced agreements to set up a new PeopleMeter service in the Philippines. The agreements are with the two leading broadcasters in the Philippines ABS-CBN and GMA. The service will go live at the beginning of 2007, with a representative panel of 1200 households reporting their viewing daily.

Tony Taylor, global commercial director, Internet, TV and Radio Audience Measurement sector (iTRAM), TNS, said, "We are very pleased to have been commissioned by the two leading broadcasters in the Philippines to set up a new PeopleMeter service. These agreements represent further growth for TNS iTRAM in Asia, building on the launch of new services in Hong Kong and Singapore as well as our expanding service in China."

Commenting on the new service Eugenio Lopez III, chair and CEO of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp said "We welcome the entry of TNS into the Television Audience Measurement service in the Philippines. We recognize their world class expertise in this area and look forward to the start of their service."

Lawyer Felipe L. Gozon, chair CEO, GMA Network Inc commented "We contracted with TNS to provide us with accurate viewing data because we expect them to meet this need."

TOKAI RICA PHILS SUPPORTS TOYOTA PROJECTS

Tokai Rica Phils Inc (TRP) president Kazuo Ito (right) presents a check for P50,000 to Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation president Hiroshi Ito and Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation president Dr. David Go (left) symbolizing its donation to support Toyota's environmental and community development initiatives and programs. The donation will be used for the Foundation's Snap Hydroponics Livelihood Program for the residents of Brgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. TRP is one of the many Toyota suppliers, locators, and dealers who have actively joined the company in a collective effort in protecting the environment to guarantee a prosperous future for the next generation. TRP raised the amount at the Recyclable Collection Event during the Earth Day Celebration held at the Toyota Special Economic Zone.

Community Innovations new high-rise development to rise in Legazpi Village

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS' newest real estate project tailored fit for the lifestyle of urban achievers has just gotten a step closer to completion.

The project principals of The Columns Legazpi Village came in full force during the groundbreaking ceremonies recently. Community Innovations president Bobby Dy performed the customary placement of important documents into the time capsule.

Dy was joined by Loy Umali, vice president for project development group; Ben Villarama, managing partner, RMJM Philippines; Dan Abando, vice president for technical services group; Edwin Yabut, lead architect; Angel Salvador, vice president for finance administration group; Raymond Domingo, sales director; Grace Sta. Ana, project development manager of The Columns Legazpi Village; and Ramoncito Gabriel, senior vice president, Makati Development Corporation.

The 41-storey two-tower residential condo is in close proximity to about 240 office buildings within the CBD, and to an array of lifestyle conveniences and after-six hangouts.

The development which will rise at the corner of Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) and Amorsolo St., offers a 450-sq.m. 'Fitness Hub,' Zen-like ambience, well-planned units including loft and bi-level units.

The development incorporates the elements of Green Architecture into its blueprint, making the new residential high-rise environment-friendly and conducive to healthy living. The energy saving features dramatically reduce energy costs.

The excellent location affords residents magnificent views of renowned Manila Bay and the vibrant Makati CBD. Also, the units are accessibly priced, with monthly payments of as low as P10,000.

For inquiries, call 888-0000, e-mail cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing daily at the 3rd level of Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Sunday to Thursday), 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Friday and Saturday).

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that caters to urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.

METROBANK NOW ACCEPTS PROFRIENDS PAYMENTS

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, is now accepting Peso amortization payments from Property Company of Friends Inc (ProFriends) customers living or working overseas. With this arrangement, buyers of ProFriends homes abroad can now safely and conveniently remit payments on time just by going to the nearest Metrobank foreign branch or office/subsidiary in their area. The agreement was signed by (from left) Metrobank remittance division head Jovencio R. Capulong, Metrobank international offices and subsidiaries group head Carmelita R. Araneta, ProFriends funds management group head Jocelyn L. Guzman, and ProFriends investment management division head Eliza S. Cielo. Present as witnesses were Metrobank consumer lending group head Rowena R. Oliveros and ProFriends president Guillermo C. Choa. ProFriends is a real estate company that develops affordable homes in the Philippines.

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR GRACES SONY EXHIBIT

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Ryuichiro Yamazaki was guest of honor at the Sony 'Memoirs of Alpha' photo exhibit in Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao last Sept. 1. Photo shows Ambassador Yamazaki (second from right) with Sony Philippines Inc president Hiroaki Kobayashi, and Araneta Group of Companies vice chair Judy Araneta-Roxas and chair Jorge Araneta. 'Memoirs of Alpha' featured photos of Tokyo, Japan by Jun De Leon, Mark Nicdao, Jake Versoza, Jo Ann Bitagcol and Sara Black - five of the country's top photographers - using the electronics manufacturer's latest, first ever digital SLR camera, the 10.2 megapixel CCD, Bionz-powered a100.

UNILAB DONATES TO TABANG MINDANAW

Raymond V. Santiago, corporate affairs specialist of United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), turns-over its donation of medicines to Milet B. Mendoza, Tabang Mindanaw executive coordinator. This event marks the 5th year of cooperation between Unilab and Tabang in reaching out to poor communities in the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi under the Pagtabangan BaSulTa Coalition, and in other parts of Mindanao. Currently, Tabang is implementing support programs on health and humanitarian aid in Mindanao.

GOKONGWEI EMPLOYEES' RELIEF EFFORTS

Donations continue to pour in for Mt. Mayon evacuees, as more than 8,000 families remain in over 25 relief centers in Legazpi city. Adding to the list of those who have pledged support are JG Summit Holdings Inc companies Universal Robina Corporation (URC) and Cebu Pacific (CEB), with their joint relief drive to aid the displaced residents of Albay. The sulfur dioxide emission rate remains high, though, at more than 5,000 tons daily, as Mt. Mayon continues it's relatively quiet explosion. Meanwhile, the temporary relief shelters continue to house more than 40,000 people. The effort is spearheaded by URC's human resources division, which has been collecting donations from the food manufacturer's employees. In addition, URC products such Nissin Pancit Canton, Payless Pancit Canton, Magic Flakes, Great Taste Coffee were already brought to Albay, to be distributed to the various relief centers in the province. CEB is handling the transport of these donations to Legaspi, and the turnover to local government units for immediate dispatch. According to social welfare officials, more than P7.5 million in aid has been received since alert level four was proclaimed. Nearly half of the amount came from the government, NGO and private sectors.

THE DAILY TYPICAL STRESSES OF a fast-paced career lifestyle in Makati consists of early paperwork, endless meetings, and late brainstorming sessions. You strive hard to build a career, but have you ever realized that sometimes you are not even able to rise and reap the so-called rewards of such a frenetic lifestyle? With the daily grind, you are usually left drained and uninspired, especially with the vistas of concrete and the choking pollution. Home is so far away that commuting itself is such a chore.

The only way to recharge at the end of the day is to lift yourself above the fray of it all. There is a place that will end this compromise and make coming home a cloud-nine experience — a genuinely pleasant proposition to look forward to. The Mactan Tower at Bay Garden lets you rise above mundane existence and revel in the wonders of life's little daily pleasures. The rising and setting of the sun often taken for granted by city dwellers will become an everyday spectacle as you live near the breathtaking and historic Manila Bay. Relax as you view the waters and the horizon from your home, or recharge by jogging or biking along the baywalk or quietly sit at the poolside gazebos. Cool down in a free-form outdoor swimming pool, or have your kids bask in the children's wading pool or at the outdoor playground. Spend more time with your family and enjoy the nearby entertainment and commercial centers such as Blue Wave, Malate Circle, or the newest and renowned Mall of Asia.

What's more, this seeming paradise of a condominium development is a mere half an hour drive from Makati. Mactan Tower provides an escape that seems a world away, yet still near enough your office. Uplift your outlook in life and achieve that perfect balance between your work and your family while enjoying the wonders of nature.

All these benefits of living by the bay are within reach through easy, light-weight payment terms and affordable deals — premium living that gives value for your hard-earned money. Secure your own place by the bay in the bustling and historic city of Manila. Call Bay Garden your home and upgrade your daily living to resort-quality experiences everyday. Call 551-0888 or e-mail inquiry@federalland.com.ph for more information.

UNILAB RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the country's leading pharmaceutical company, received the 'Guardian of the Environment' Award from the Manila Water Company for its preferential use of surface water instead of water from deep well that extracts from the rapidly declining urban water table. Manila Water said that this sound environmental practice shows Unilab's 'genuine corporate social responsibility to future generations of Filipinos'. Unilab received the award during Manila Water's 9th Anniversary held last Aug. 23 at the Ayala Museum, Makati City. Unilab vice president for manufacturing and supply chain Nestor Felicio (left) receives the award from Ayala Group of Companies chairman of the board Fernando Zobel de Ayala. Looking on are (from left) San Juan and Mandaluyong area business manager Allan Patdu, National Water Resources Board secretary Dondi Alikpala, Manila Water president Antonino Aquino, and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay.

NEWS / A6

Zsa Zsa, Marvin top Lunas, RP's Oscars

SPORTS / A35

Bata Reyes proves too classy in Jakarta San Miguel tilt

WORLD / A32

Muslims want more than just 'regrets' from Pope

NEWS / A10

Kris says she's 'only 98%' sure of pregnancy

Talking robot looks for friends on Internet

LONDON—GEORGE, who is 39, single and light-hearted, is looking for friends on the Internet. He has gifts—the ability to speak 40 languages and with 2,000 people at the same time.

TALKING/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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Hold your ground, Sabio tells other PCGG execs

By TJ Burgonio

"NO SURRENDER," CAMILO SABIO ADVISED HIS four fellow commissioners who are facing arrest for contempt of the Senate and are on the run.

From his detention room at the Senate clinic, the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government said it would be prudent for the other commissioners to "hold their ground" just as he

HOLD YOUR GROUND/ A8

RP slips in antigraft drive–World Bank

Good governance rank declines in last 8 years

By Doris C. Dumlao, *Business*

SINGAPORE—THE ABILITY OF THE PHILIPPINES TO IMprove its governance and curb corruption has faltered over the past eight years despite its vibrant democratic society and free press, according to a World Bank report.

The report, "Governance Matters 2006: Worldwide Governance Indicators," which covers 209 countries, painted a sobering picture of global trends in governance. It was launched on the sidelines of the joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings here.

Drawn from the responses of more than 120,000 citizens, enterprises and experts provided by 25 different organizations worldwide, the report showed a sharp decline in the ranking of the Philippines in the control of corruption benchmark from 50.5 percent in 1998 to 37.4 percent in 2005.

The country's percentile rank means that it is better off than 37.4 percent of all other countries covered by the study based on the index for control of corruption, defined as the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including petty and grand forms of corruption and the "capture" of the state by elite and private interests.

In a recent visit to Manila, World Bank managing director Juan Jose Daboub said the Philippines, having one of the most "open" societies in the region with its vibrant private sector, lively civil society organizations and vigorous media,

RP SLIPS/ A8

PEÑAFRANCIA PROCESSION NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Thousands of devotees join the fluvial procession for Our Lady of Peñafrancia (top photo), the patroness of Bicolandia, on the Naga River in Naga City in Camarines Sur. The event is one of the biggest tourist attractions in Bicol every year.

SADAKO Ogata: From UNHCR to leader of the world's biggest aid agency. JESS YUSON

Raps poised against GMA in UN agency

By Blanche S. Rivera

ARMED WITH DEATH CERTIFICATES, the leader of a Filipino peasant group flew to Switzerland yesterday to file charges against the Philippine government as a human rights violator before a United Nations body.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) secretary general Danilo Ramos left for Geneva on a trip his group said could embarrass President Macapagal-Arroyo internationally, as she headed home from her own foreign trip that has been touted by Malacañang as having brought immense benefits to the country.

In the complaint it is filing before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the KMP names Ms Arroyo, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and retired Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as representatives of a government involved in murder, torture, illegal arrests and political persecu-

RAPS POISED/ A12

SC tells DENR: Justify Boracay order

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DIRECTED the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to justify the government order turning the world-famous island resort of Boracay into "forest and agricultural land."

Boracay resort owners and residents have warned that the government action was jeopardizing the island's P7-billion tourism industry.

In a resolution, the high court ordered the DENR to comment on the petition of Boracay residents asking the tribunal to nullify Presidential Proclamation No. 1064, which classifies lots on the island as "forest and agricultural land."

The proclamation would pave the way for the government to bid out prized Boracay lots even if there are resorts and other business establishments built on them.

"Acting on the special civil action for prohibition and mandamus ... the court resolved, without giving due course to the petition, to require the respondents to comment thereon within 10 days upon notice hereof," the Supreme Court said.

Boracay residents, led by Waling-Waling Beach Hotel owner Orlando Sacay,

SC TELLS/ A18

She bridges humanitarian, dev't aid gap

By Fernando del Mundo

SHE STEPPED ONTO THE WORLD scene at the end of the Cold War and the beginning of unprecedented civil conflicts and massive population displacements.

Hardly warm in her seat as newly appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in her office overlooking picture-pretty Lake Geneva, Sadako Ogata immediately faced her first major test.

SPECIAL REPORT

Rebels had mounted an uprising that Saddam Hussein ruthlessly crushed, sending tens of thousands of Kurds fleeing for their lives in northern Iraq.

That first Gulf War was soon replicated elsewhere.

Large-scale ethnic strife, clan wars and civil conflicts erupted in the former Yugoslavia, in parts of Africa and Asia

SHE BRIDGES/ A12

US to step up antiterror training of RP troops

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is assisted by Filipino war veterans in a wreath-laying rite at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. REUTERS

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HONOLULU (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday received the assurance of the US military that it would step up the training of Filipino soldiers and upgrade the arsenal of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for its war on terrorism and the communist insurgency.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said Ms Arroyo was assured of increased US military assistance during her meeting with Rear Adm. William VanMeter Alford Jr., chief of staff of the US Pacific Command (Pacom).

"The Philippine relationship with the US has matured and grown under my administration. The US Pacific Command, based here in Hawaii, has been a key partner in our comprehensive security cooperation activities," Ms Arroyo said after dedicating a plaque in memory of

US TO STEP UP/ A17

After trip, GMA legitimacy sinks in quicksand

By Amando Doronila

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo arrives today from her mainly European tour, she would have little to report on accomplishments. Domestically, she faces a country in worse turmoil than when she left it 10 days ago.

ANALYSIS

She will encounter confrontation with the Senate which has detained Camilo Sabio, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCCG), for his arrogant noncooperation with the chamber in its inquiry into the alleged dissipation of the assets of government-sequestered corporations.

AFTER TRIP/ A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/17/06 SOURCE PAGASA

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

BIR to get P815M to spy on tax cheats

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALLOCATING P815 MILlion for the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to set up its own information systems that would serve as the "spyware and tripwire" against tax cheats once they are fully activated, a lawmaker said yesterday.

Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago said the P815 million, contained in the proposed 2007 General Appropriations Act, or national budget, would finance the BIR's Tax Administration Computerization Project.

"We are absolutely convinced the bureau's full automation would improve efficiency and transparency, enhance the integrity of transactions and discourage irregularities," Santiago said, noting that "inefficiency breeds corruption."

"Government should spare no expense when investing in systems that would strengthen enforcement and compliance, and detect and deter fraud and abuse in tax programs and operations," he said.

Santiago said that if the government would invest P815 million now to upgrade the BIR's information systems, the bureau would be able to collect P2 billion more in the process. "This easily translates to a 150 percent return on investment," he pointed out.

The lawmaker said that, if necessary, the BIR should enlist the help of the private sector in developing application software that would systematically screen tax returns, and promptly raise red flags.

"In other countries, tax agencies have gone to the extent of developing spyware that can readily spot potential anomalies in returns, which are then subjected to closer scrutiny," Santiago said.

He cited the US Internal Revenue Service which caught $412 million in fraudulent returns in 2005 through the use of a computer program that searched for signs of cheating in every return claiming a refund.

California-based Computer Sciences Corp., a global provider of information technology and professional services, developed the special IRS computer program.

Meanwhile, Santiago stressed the need for the BIR to expand its Electronic Filing and Payment System by encouraging more taxpayers to enlist. He noted that less than 15,000 taxpayers were enrolled in the system.

"We have to eliminate if not reduce manual processing, which has led to the rampant diversion of check and cash payments. The more taxpayers filing and paying online, the less opportunity for corruption," he said.

The Ombudsman is now prosecuting dozens of criminal cases involving BIR agents who blatantly withheld or conveyed tax remittances to private bank accounts.

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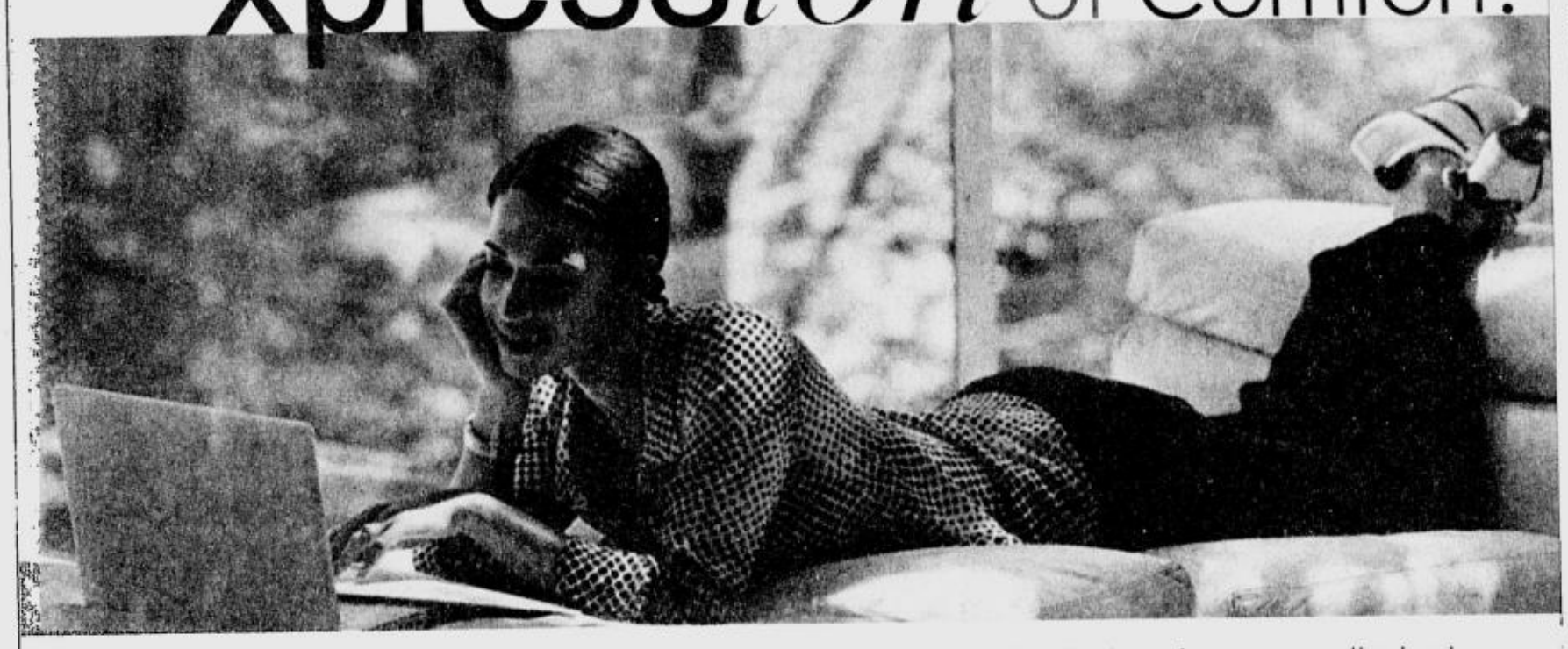

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is the best reward you can give yourself.

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is taken out of any room. Moisture that slows down the ability to absorb additional heat slides
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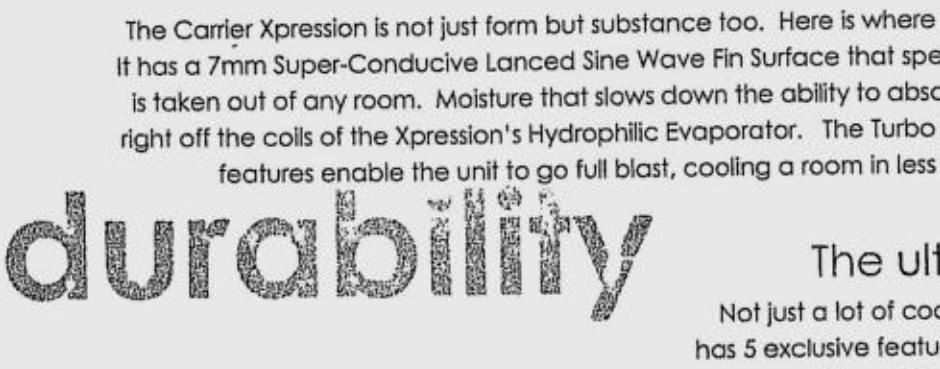

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Increase in July unemployment negligible–DOLE

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND Employment on Friday dismissed as "negligible" the 0.3-percent rise in the country's unemployment rate in July, or the equivalent to 200,000 more jobless Filipinos, because more people were actually getting jobs.

The National Statistics Office released on Friday the results of its July 2006 Labor Force Survey which showed that the overall employment level grew by 2.3 percent, translating to 735,000 new jobs generated.

"The employment situation continued to improve. The prospect for the rest of the year is good," Labor Undersecretary for Employment Danilo Cruz said in a report to Malacañang.

The NSO said the country's labor force expanded by 2.6 percent or nearly a million, thus pushing the number of unemployed to 2.9 million in July 2006 compared to last year's 2.7 million jobless Filipinos.

The underemployment rate also rose to 13.3 percent from 12.5 percent during the same period a year ago. The underemployed or those seeking extra jobs now number about 4.42 million or 337,000 higher than last year's figure.

Cruz pointed out that the country's employment situation continued to improve as more people found "quality jobs" compared to the number of jobs generated in July 2005.

The quality of employment also improved substantially as shown by the 3.6 percent growth in full-time employment and 7.5 percent increase in wage and salary employment, he added.

There were also less part-time workers, own-account workers and unpaid family workers.

By region, Northern Mindanao and Caraga had the least jobs created, according to NSO.

By sector, Cruz said services posted the biggest employment growth of 5.6 percent followed by the industry sector, while the figure for agriculture, and the fishery and forestry sectors fell by 1.2 percent.

Andaya confirms pork barrel cuts

By Christine O. Avendaño

BUDGET SECRETARY ROLANDO ANDAYA Jr. yesterday said that Malacañang would trim the pork barrel funds of lawmakers to only P6.24 billion in its proposed P1.136 trillion national budget for 2007.

"We're trimming the pork, not enlarging it," Andaya said.

In a statement, Andaya said the Priority Development Assistance Fund was only P6.24 billion in next year's budget.

The budget chief issued the statement in reaction to reports that the pork barrel allocations had been increased to P21 billion or P70 million per congressman and P200 million per senator.

"Nowhere in the proposed 2007 budget which we have submitted to Congress is the clear stipulation that a member of the House will be getting P70 million worth of projects next year or that a senator will have naming rights to P200 billion worth of projects," he said.

The PDAF for 2007, he added, is lower than the P7.1 billion spent last year.

This translates to a P20 million allocation per congressional district and P60 million per senatorial office, he said.

Andaya, however, conceded that congressmen could raise their pork barrel since the proposed 2007 budget has already been submitted to Congress and is thus technically a bill that can be amended.

Two years ago, the pork barrel allocations of congressmen and senators were slashed to P40 million and P120 million, respectively, due to the huge budget deficit.

Lawmakers had hoped that with the additional revenues that the government generated from the implementation of the expanded value-added tax their pork barrel allocations would be restored to P70 million per congressman and P200 million per senator.

Pork barrel funds have been identified as one of the major sources of kickbacks.

Gonzalez: No settlement in rape case

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Christine O. Avendaño

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ DEnied yesterday the government was pushing for a settlement to resolve the Subic rape case filed by a Filipino woman against four US Marines or that the case could be "traded off" with that of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, who is detained in the United States.

"We're not pushing for a settlement," Gonzalez said in a phone interview yesterday. "The settlement must come from the parties involved, not from us. The government does not push for settlement."

Gonzalez said any settlement would be between the 22-year-old accuser, called "Nicole," and the American Marines accused of raping her at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1 last year.

Earlier, Nicole's mother claimed Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos had proposed that the family "just settle" with the Marines. Nicole followed this up by stressing that she would refuse to settle, and would continue her fight "to the very end."

The mother also quoted De los Santos as warning that if the family did not agree to the proposal, Nicole's case might be traded off with that Bolante, who is suspected of involvement in the misuse of P728 million in fertilizer funds.

De los Santos has denied the statements made by Nicole's mother, countering that it was Nicole's mother who had asked her for advice in case there would be a negotiation for settlement.

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita described the trade-off claim as "untrue and unbelievable."

"Di totoo yan (That's not true)," Ermita said in a phone interview.

In another interview last Friday, Ermita denied that Malacañang had any intention of intervening in the case of Bolante, who was detained after his visa was canceled by the US Embassy in Manila.

Bigger say in IMF sought

SINGAPORE — THE Philippine-chaired Group of 24 developing countries urged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to democratize its representation within a year or two to sustain the fund's own legitimacy and relevance to majority of the world's population.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who chairs G-24 this year, aired the group's lament that the current package of reforms pledged by the Bretton Woods institution failed to reflect the growing importance of developing countries to the world economy.

Members of the group are seeking an increase in their basic voting power by at least three times and a more equitable quota system within the next 12 to 24 months, Teves said at a press briefing after the G-24 meetings on Saturday ahead of the joint IMF-World Bank annual meetings here.

Inadequate

"The current package of reforms does not adequately address the fundamental issue of the underrepresentation of developing and low-income countries as groups," Teves said.

At the same briefing, Ariel Buira, director of the G-24 Secretariat, which is based in Washington DC, warned that the IMF's failure to recognize the voice of the developing countries could aggravate the fund's image problem.

"Following the Asian crisis, we saw a number of countries in Asia building up reserves as a form of insurance to make certain that they don't have to come to the fund," Buira said.

Walkout

"This lack of representation and decision-making raised issues on the credibility and legitimacy of the fund . . . Some countries in other large parts of the world also walked out of the fund and the fund is left with smaller poorer countries as customers. Without reforms, you can't bring back these countries to be (part of the) multilateral (fund)," he said.

The G-24 communiqué noted that emerging market countries, other developing countries and economies in transition accounted for over half of global gross domestic product, measured in terms of purchasing power parity. ***Doris C. Dumlao***

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Endermologie

UN Security Council votes to hear Burma issue

By Michael Lim Ubac

A PARTY-LIST LAWMAKER HAS hailed the inclusion of the issue of Burma (Myanmar) in the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, calling it a "major victory" for rights crusaders in Asia.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales congratulated the people of Burma on getting the votes in the Security Council in a Sept. 15 meeting in New York. SC members voted 10 in favor, 4 against, with 1 abstention.

"It must be poetic justice that the day the AIPO (Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization) ended its conference boxing out the issue of Aung Sang Suu Kyi from its formal proceedings, the United Nations Security Council picked up the cudgels for the struggle of the Burmese peoples, especially their women and children," said Rosales.

Aung Sang Suu Kyi is the leader of the nonviolent movement for human rights and democracy in Burma and is the recipient of a Nobel Peace Prize.

She has been under house arrest in her lakeside villa for 11 of the past 16 years after her political party, the National League of Democracy (NLD), was prevented by the ruling military junta from taking the majority seats in parliament it won in the May 27, 1990, elections.

Rosales said she was speaking in behalf of Akbayan and the Asean Interparliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC) that have been working hard for the inclusion of Burma in the SC agenda.

The UN vote came after the AIPO meeting in Cebu City on Sept. 10-15 rejected efforts by Suu Kyi's group to include the political repression and human rights abuses of Burma's military government in the AIPO agenda.

"It was therefore ironic and a great injustice to the people of Burma that the military junta was given special observer status in 1997 by the Asean AIPO whose membership is made up of elected parliaments and congresses of Asean," Rosales said.

She said the UN vote could force the military junta to unconditionally free Suu Kyi, and ultimately implement a roadmap to democracy in the troubled and largely impoverished country.

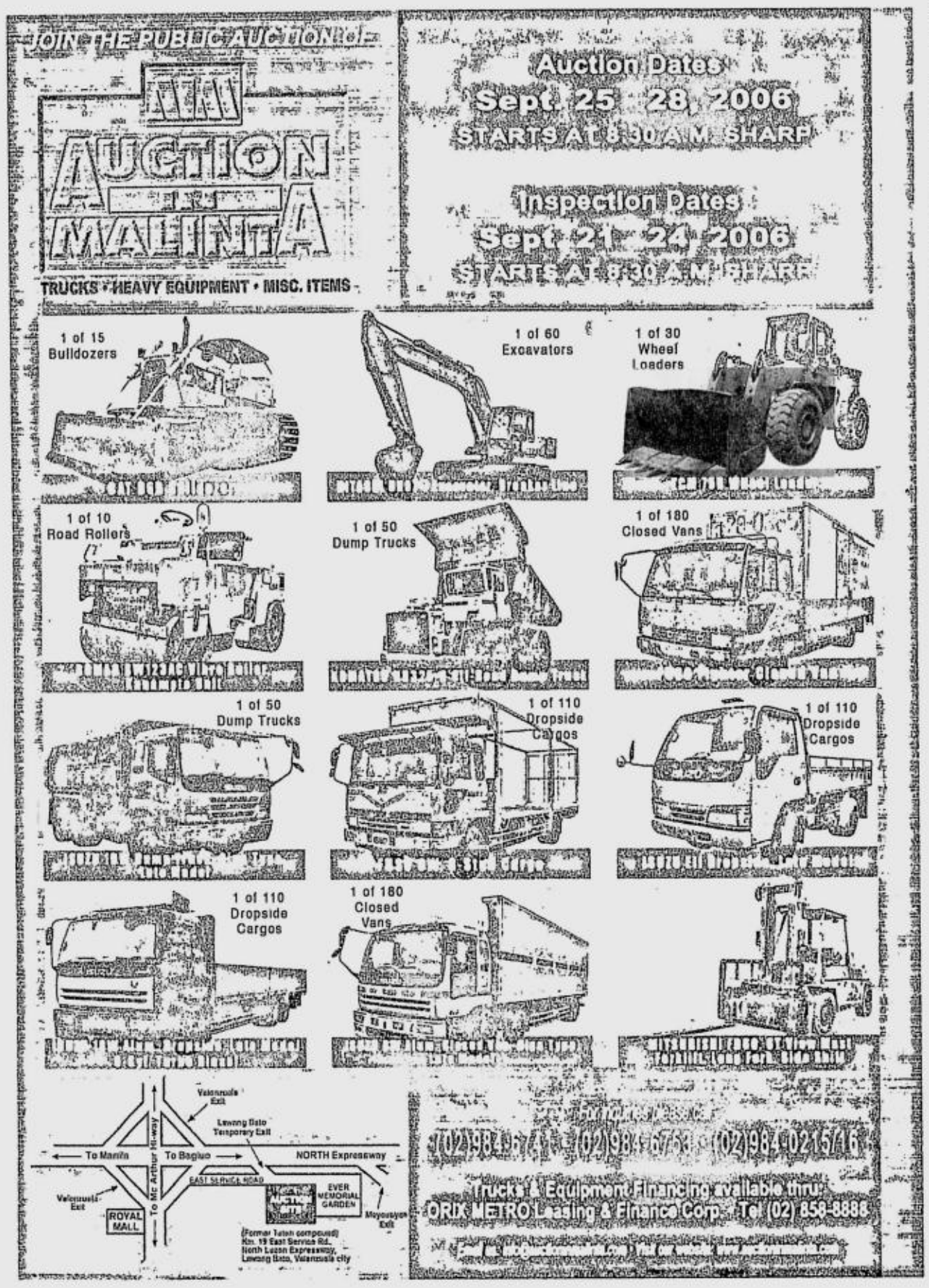
During the AIPO meeting, Rosales and fellow Akbayan party-list Rep. Mario Aguja tried to include the repressive conditions in Burma in the AIPO agenda.

But when the AIPO political affairs committee chaired by Rep. Mat Defensor began discussing the issue of Burma initiated by Indonesian MP Marzuki Darussman, the Burmese representatives strongly objected and were supported by Singapore, Laos and Vietnam.

It was on these grounds that both Indonesia and the Philippines decided to come up with two sets of statements—one for the inclusion of the elected MPs (members of parliament) of Burma in AIPO, giving them formal status, and another set for the inclusion of Burma in the agenda of the UN Security Council.

A statement issued at the end of the AIPO meeting by Akbayan, which was signed by many delegates, contained four points.

It asked Burma to work with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to implement a plan for national reconciliation; asked Annan to remain involved in the reconciliation process and to report back to the council on a regular basis; urged Burma to ensure immediate and unhampered access to all parts of the country to the UN and its international humanitarian organizations, and urged the release Suu Kyi and thousands of political and ethnic prisoners.



Prelate off to US, Canada

MANILA ARCHBISHOP Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales leaves today for the US and Canada to visit the Filipino communities there, celebrate Mass for them and discuss his pet project for the poor, Pondo ng Pinoy, which raises funds through donations of small change.

Rosales, who will be away for almost one month, will also visit family members who live in the two countries.

He will attend the Sept. 24 Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City to celebrate the feast of the first Filipino saint, Lorenzo Ruiz, upon the invitation of Archbishop of New York Edward Cardinal Egan.

Before New York, Rosales will go to Birmingham, Alabama, where he will be interviewed on Sept. 20 over the 24-hour Catholic cable channel EWTN. The interview will be beamed worldwide.

Rosales will fly to Canada on Oct. 11 to visit other family members before heading back to Manila on Oct. 12.

Leila B. Salaverria

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24th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33
Gospel: Luke 7:1-10

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There was a captain whose servant was very sick and near to death, a man very dear to him. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent some elders of the Jews to persuade him to come and save his servant's life. The elders came to Jesus and begged him earnestly, saying, "He deserves this of you, for he loves our people and even built a synagogue for us."

Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the captain sent friends to give this message, "Sir, do not trouble yourself for I am not worthy to welcome you under my roof. You see I didn't approach you myself. Just give the order and my servant will be healed. For I myself, a junior officer, give orders to my soldiers and I say to this one: 'Go,' and he goes; and to my servant: 'Do this,' and he does it."

On hearing these words, Jesus was filled with admiration. He turned and said to the people with him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith." The people sent by the captain went back to his house; there they found that the servant was well.

Commentary

Factions in the community: it started early and it distorts even the Eucharist. Those who are rich eat their own gift before those who are poor can even arrive (servants coming late after their masters). In liturgy they embarrass those who are like the poor man, Jesus. They are eating and drinking not to the life of the Lord, but to their own judgment and death. Jesus heals us all, those with wealth, power on earth and those with none. And sadly, it seems there is often more faith in outsiders than among believers. Wouldn't it be great to astonish God today? What could we do?

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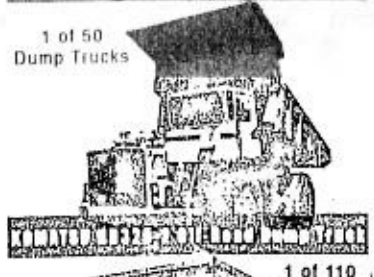
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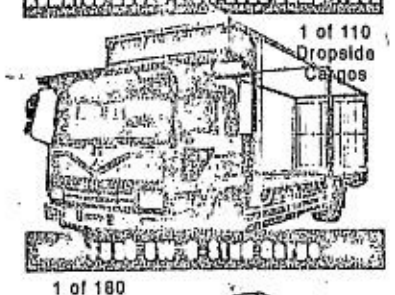
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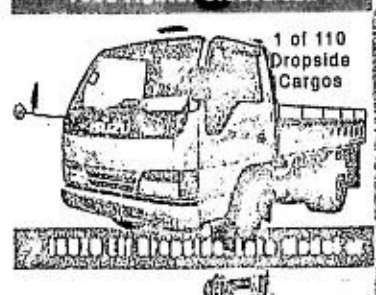
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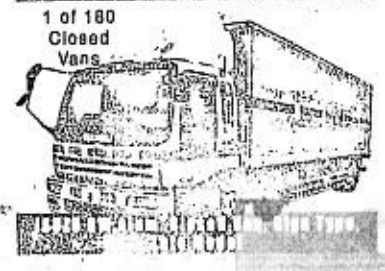
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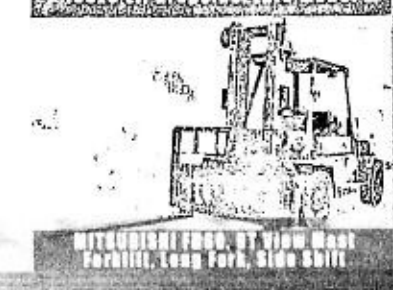

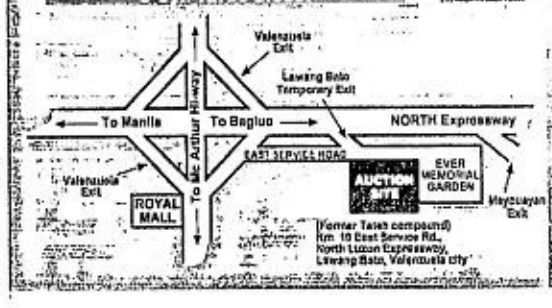

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Week #14 (June 27)
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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0015, Series of 2006

Zsa Zsa, Marvin top Lunas, RP's Oscars

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE LUNA AWARDS, THE LOCAL VERSION of Hollywood's Oscars, almost didn't happen.

Delayed by over three months, the 24th annual Luna Awards, handed out by the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), was finally held on Saturday at the Pagcor Grand Theater at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

Although saddled with problems—its subsidy from the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) had been slashed—the show must go on.

In a lot of ways, the Luna Awards felt like a déjà vu of the MMFF awards night in January because the night's big winners—Best Actress Zsa Zsa Padilla ("Ako Legal Wife"), Best Actor Marvin Agustin ("Kutob") and Best Picture producer Lily Monteverde of Regal Films ("Blue Moon")—won the same awards for the same films.

"This is the second acting award I've received in my career," Agustin told the INQUIRER backstage at the awards ceremony. "Now, I can give one trophy each to my twins (who were born almost a year ago). The MMFF is for Sebastian; the FAP for Santiago."

"This is my second award from the FAP; the first one was for 'Batang PX' in 1997," Padilla recalled. "It's a pleasant surprise. I really just wanted to be here—nominated or not—to show people that there is unity in the industry."

Other acting prizes went to Best Supporting Actress Hilda Koronel (for "Nasaan Ka Man") and Best Supporting Actor Johnny Delgado ("La Visa Loca"). Both Koronel and Delgado were not present at the ceremony.

Award for Nida

Posthumous awards were given to composer George Canseco and actress Nida Blanca.

Fernando Poe Jr. Lifetime Achievement honors were conferred on "komiks" novelist/scriptwriter Pablo S. Gomez and actor Ramon Revilla Sr.

Sought for comment on Regal's Luna triumph, Monteverde told the INQUIRER: "I feel proud to be a movie producer. It's not easy. Having money is not enough. You also need to have passion and dedication."

No, she didn't see the awards as "vindication" for the MMFF controversy. (Although "Blue Moon" won Best Picture, Monteverde protested the loss of Joel Lamangan in the Best Director category at the MMFF last January.)

ZSA ZSA Padilla wins again. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Intrigues part of show biz

"That's a thing of the past. Anyway, Joel won for Best Director at the FAP," she said. "Intrigues are part of show business."

Lamangan dedicated his Luna Best Director trophy for "Blue Moon" to the "movie workers who labor under trying conditions."

"Blue Moon" won two other awards: Best Screenplay for Allan Tijamo and Best Music Score for Von de Guzman.

The night's other big winner was Star Cinema's "Nasaan Ka Man, which received Best Cinematography (for Charlie Peralta), Editing (Marya Ignacio) and Sound (Addis Tabong).

Best Production Design went to Richard Somes for his work on the Imus fantasy flick, "Exodus," top-billed by Sen. Bong Revilla, who was among the hosts of the evening.

In a spiel onstage, Revilla promised that he would work for the reduction of amusement taxes from 30 to 10 percent in the Senate.

"High amusement taxes," along with piracy, had been blamed by FAP director general Leo Martinez and other industry leaders for the decline of local movies.

Taxes

Martinez explained: "Taxes are killing the industry. If you add up the taxes—from amusement tax to VAT—that the industry is paying, more than 50 percent goes to the government, which is not doing enough. What do our national leaders want for our industry?"

"Quezon City is the first to reduce the amusement tax to 15 percent. The industry needs all the help it can get," said Monteverde.

Contests

Undaunted by these problems, the FAP still sought to discover new scriptwriting talents through the 1st FAP Screenplay and Storyline Contests—the winners of which were announced that night.

Winners in the Screenplay contest are Veronica B. Velasco ("Boy"), Adolfo B. Alix Jr. ("Kwento ni Indo") and Marlon G. Miguel ("Sapi"). They will receive P200,000 each.

Storyline winners are James Edward Golla ("Ang Palasyo ni Ivan"), Jose Abelardo Tam ("Cinema Goa"), Leoncio P. Deriada ("Mariit 3"), Emmanuel A. de la Cruz ("Sa Dibdib ng mga Alon") and Lito Casaje ("Siling Labuyo sa Kabilugan ng Buwan"). Storyline citations come with P50,000 each.

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Oil seen floating off Marinduque

LUCENA CITY—TRACES OF ANOTHER oil spill have been discovered in waters of Boac on the island of Marinduque, a provincial fishery official said yesterday.

Romy Pangilinan, aquaculture technician of the Marinduque Provincial Agriculture Office, said patches of oil were noticed by fishermen floating in the waters of at least 13 coastal villages on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning, the sludge appeared to be spreading, he said.

Marinduque Gov. Carmencita Reyes said the oil spill did not seem to be related to the Solar I tanker leak that has devastated the coastal towns of Guimaras.

Reyes said information from fishermen pointed to two ships, one of them colored blue, that were spotted 12 km from the island's shores on Saturday afternoon as the possible culprits.

"I believe the oil sludge originated from those vessels. The oil is not from Guimaras," Reyes said in a phone interview, adding that she will be mobilizing all available manpower to stop its spread.

"The slippers of villagers residing along the coast are now coated with sticky and oily grease. It's like soap," Reyes said.

She said she had sent water and sand samples for laboratory testing to determine exactly what it was that was floating dangerously close to the heart-shaped island province.

The spill was discovered just hours after public and private associations in Marinduque participated in activities marking International Coastal Cleanup Day.

"We had throngs of coastal cleaners who swept away all litter along the beach. Our local and visiting divers also conducted an underwater cleanup. We are maintaining the cleanliness of our seas and shores, then here comes this oil sludge," Reyes said.

Pangilinan said they were still verifying the origin of the oil sludge.

"It looked like bunker fuel, just like in Guimaras, based on what we had seen on television." he said over the phone. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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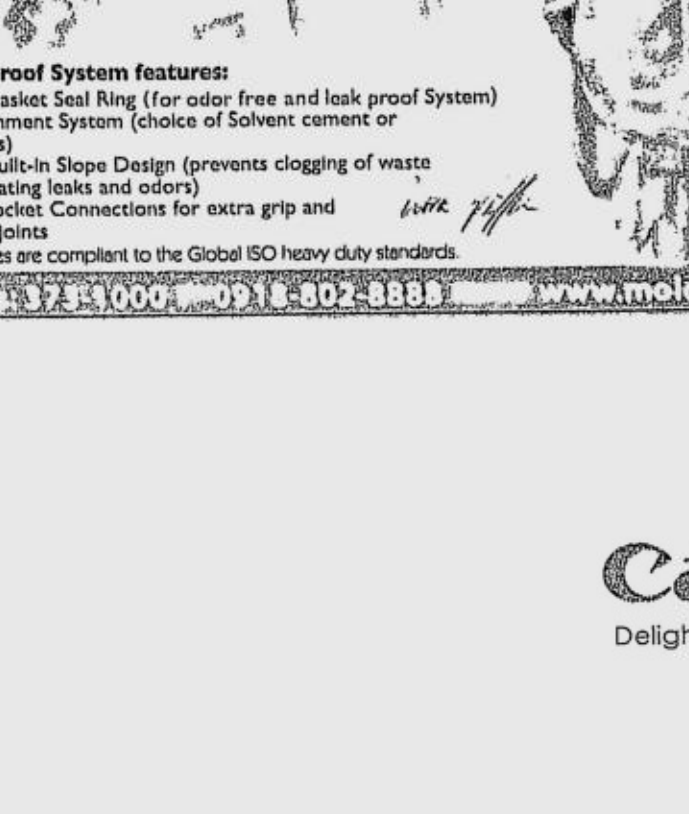
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RP slips in antigraft drive, says World Bank

From page A1

had "fertile" ground for good economic policies to flourish.

"The strength of regional competitors sounds an alarm bell that this country cannot afford to ignore. Time wasted, reforms that lapse, large segments of the population with untapped potential, continued tolerance of corrupt practices will have a real price, not just in lost income and lost market share, but in lost opportunity for millions of Filipinos," Deboub said at a forum organized by the Makati Business Club and the Asian Institute of Management.

Among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Singapore has the best ranking at 99 percent. The city-state was cited as an exception to the usual link between the extent of voice and democratic accountability and success in controlling corruption.

(Singapore has barred activists from passing through the island on their way to Indonesia's Batam Island to attend the International People's Forum, a gathering held simultaneously with the IMF-WB summit.)

The Philippines was behind Malaysia's percentile rank of 64.5 percent, Brunei's 63.1 percent and Thailand's 51.2 percent, but it scored better than Vietnam (26.6 percent), Indonesia (21.2 percent), Laos (9.4 percent), Cambodia (8.9 percent) and Burma [Myanmar] (1.5 percent).

Accountability, violence

Most Asean members slipped in their rankings over the past seven years except for Singapore, Indonesia and Cambodia, which nudged up from their 1998 rankings of 97.1 percent, 9.3 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively.

There was likewise a marked deterioration in the ranking of the Philippines in five other benchmarks for good governance:

- Voice and accountability, defined as the extent to which a country's citizens are able to participate in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, freedom of association and free media (from 58.9 percent to 47.8 percent).
- Political stability and absence of violence—perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including political violence and terrorism (from 39.2 percent to 17.5 percent).
- Government effectiveness—the quality of public services and civil service, the degree of the civil service's independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies (from 63.2 percent to 55.5 percent).
- Regulatory quality—the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development (from 68.5 percent to 52 percent).
- Rule of law—the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, the police and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence (from 55.3 percent to 38.6 percent).

"We find in the evidence that countries that have a freer press also have more transparent government and more effective government and more control of corruption," Daniel Kaufmann, coauthor of the report, said at a press briefing.

Myth dispelled

The report cited countries such as Chile, Portugal and Canada as countries with vibrant democracies and very little corruption—in contrast to countries like China and the Russian Federation, which tend to have more corruption and huge challenges in voice and accountability.

The study dispelled the myth that strong performance in governance and in curbing corruption was the domain of developed countries. In fact, it found little evidence of a significant improvement among both industrialized and developing countries.

More than a dozen developing countries, including Slovenia, Chile and Estonia, scored higher in the rule of law and control of corruption indicators than some industrialized countries such as Greece and Italy.

Stars in Africa

The report also cited shining stars even in Africa, which have been doing well and have been getting increasingly better in governance over the past decade, such as Ghana, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Senegal.

The minority of countries where progress was made suggested that where there was leadership and reform, governance and corruption control could improve significantly in a relatively short period of time, according to Kaufmann. At the same time, he warned that deterioration could also take place rapidly.

Kaufmann said good governance had a significant impact on development because it co-related with reduction in infant mortality, and improved literacy and competitiveness.

Development dividend

"We call it the 300-percent development dividend," he said. "A country that improves in governance gets three times more income per capita in the long term—from $1,000 per capita per year to $3,000 or from $3,000 to $9,000 a year."

But the author clarified that these governance rankings, while helpful in identifying challenges faced by individual countries, could never be precise.

"Measuring governance is difficult, and no indicator is 100-percent reliable in the sense of giving completely accurate information" said coauthor Aart Kraay.

"A key feature of our governance indicators is that we make every effort to be transparent about the degree of imprecision, which is present in all other measures of governance but is rarely acknowledged," he said.

"Because we aggregate information from many different data sources, our indicators are more informative than any individual data source," he added.

Hold your ground, Sabio tells other PCGG execs

From page A1

had done in his face-off with senators in Thursday's hearing on the alleged losses of government-sequestered corporations.

"No, I would not advise them to do that," Sabio said, chuckling, when asked if he would tell the commissioners to appear at the Senate before its sergeant at arms could serve arrest warrants on them.

"That's a decision for them to make. But if they were to ask me, I would say, 'Hold your ground.' They have filed a petition to prevent the Senate from arresting them; they should stick to it. It wouldn't look OK if they later say, 'We surrender,'" he added.

Sabio, 70, who remained in constant contact with the other commissioners, said that going to his office in Mandaluyong City on Sept. 12 to await his arrest and to go along with the arresting agents was his "personal decision."

After staking out the PCGG office for days and the known "haunts" of the four commissioners, the agents of the Senate sergeant at arms have so far failed to find Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario. The four had petitioned the Supreme Court to stop the Senate from serving the warrants on them.

Facing arrest

Also facing arrest are Benito Araneta, Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC) chair; Philip Brodett, director/vice president; Manuel Andal, treasurer, and Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin, directors. Araneta was part of the delegation of President Macapagal-Arroyo on her trip to Europe and the United States.

The Senate committees on government corporations and public services cited these officers for direct contempt and issued warrants for their arrest on Sept. 11 after they skipped the hearing thrice in a row.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who paid his cousin Sabio a visit yesterday morning, said the First Couple should ask Araneta to show up at the Senate and not wait for the Senate security men to serve a warrant on him.

"In all honesty, I think so because the purpose of the Senate committee here, I understand, is to look at the way the funds of Philcomsat have been disbursed or used. That's within the power of the Senate to inquire into," Pimentel said.

Sabio hears Mass

Sabio spent his fifth day in detention taking a brisk walk around the parking lot, receiving guests and reading cases to prepare for the oral arguments on his petition for habeas corpus before the high court on Thursday.

He was set to attend Mass at around 5 p.m. at the Senate's multipurpose hall on the fourth floor at his request.

Sabio said Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura, the PCGG counsel, would orally argue his case against possibly Sen. Joker Arroyo, but stressed that he would request Nachura to allow him to discuss one issue.

"I have full trust and confidence in him. I may take up one issue. I'll discuss that with him. He's now in the process of preparing for the oral arguments. After he finishes, I may ask to discuss one point or one issue," he said.

To speak for defense

"I can't say I've said my piece. I will say something at the right time ... There's a time for everything ... I will say what I have to say at the Supreme Court if I decide to orally argue some points. Otherwise, the Solicitor General, our counsel, will do the speaking for us," Sabio said.

The high court had granted Sabio's petition for a writ of habeas corpus and ordered the Senate to present him in court on Thursday.

"It's hard to say but I'm 100 percent sure that I am right or our position is the correct one. But, of course, the Supreme Court has the final say on what the law is," the PCGG chair said when asked the chances of the high court upholding his position.

Asked to comment on former PCGG Chair Jovito Salonga's remarks that he had never sought immunity from legislative proceedings, Sabio said: "Maybe that's why it has taken this case a long time. I'm the 12th PCGG chair. I think if they had done their duty, they should have finished [the PCGG's work] a long time ago. Litigations are disadvantageous to the national interest."

Who is right?

Sabio said he would invoke anew Executive Order No. 1 which grants PCGG officials immunity from testifying in legislative, judicial and administrative proceedings, and would not answer questions when he's escorted to the hearing set for this afternoon.

"I will continue to invoke that until the Supreme Court decides who is right. Is it the Senate or the PCGG?" he said.

On Thursday, Sabio tangled with senators and engaged Gordon in a shouting match as he vigorously defended the validity of EO 1. At the hearing the next day, he did not talk but merely sat quietly in his seat.

"Of course I'm not OK with that setup, but I will answer at the right time," he said.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto pressed his colleagues to release Sabio for humanitarian reasons.

"With due respect to my colleagues, I think he should be released immediately. It does not look good on us to be detaining a 70-year-old man with a heart ailment," Recto said in a statement.

Caught in crossfire

Abcede said the PCGG was getting caught in the crossfire between two groups struggling to gain control of Philcomsat.

"We will never get a fair hearing from the Senate committee because some senators have personal and political interests in the company," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Asked if he was referring to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, whose daughter is a stockholder of one group in Philcomsat, Abcede merely said "you know who I mean."

Conti expressed the fear the PCGG would lose its cases in the Sandiganbayan against former First Lady Imelda Marcos, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, taipan Lucio Tan and other cronies of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos since he and the other PCGG officials were preoccupied with "ducking and hiding" rather than studying their legal moves.

Conti, one of the legal affairs chiefs of the PCGG, said he and Commissioners Nario and Javier were meeting to discuss the agency's legal moves in safe houses around the metropolis.

"We are not criminals and we not terrorists," said Abcede. "The only thing we are avoiding is an illegal arrest. I cannot do the heavy work I have been doing. We have a lot of priorities."

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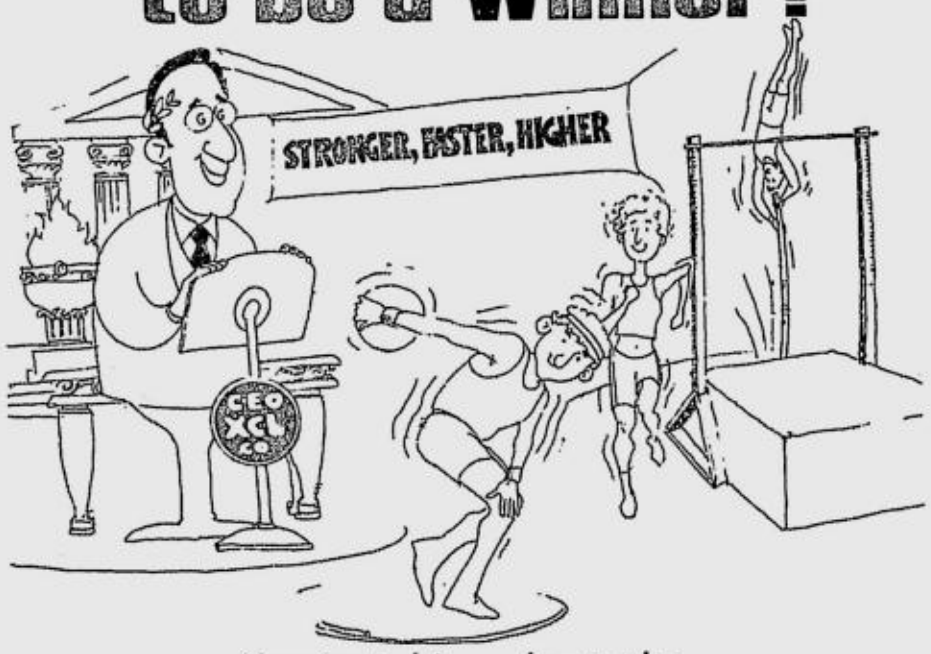

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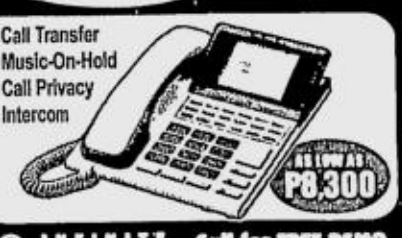

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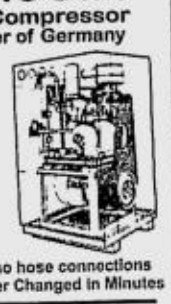
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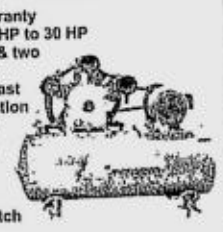

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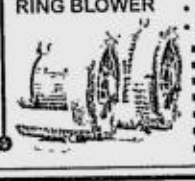
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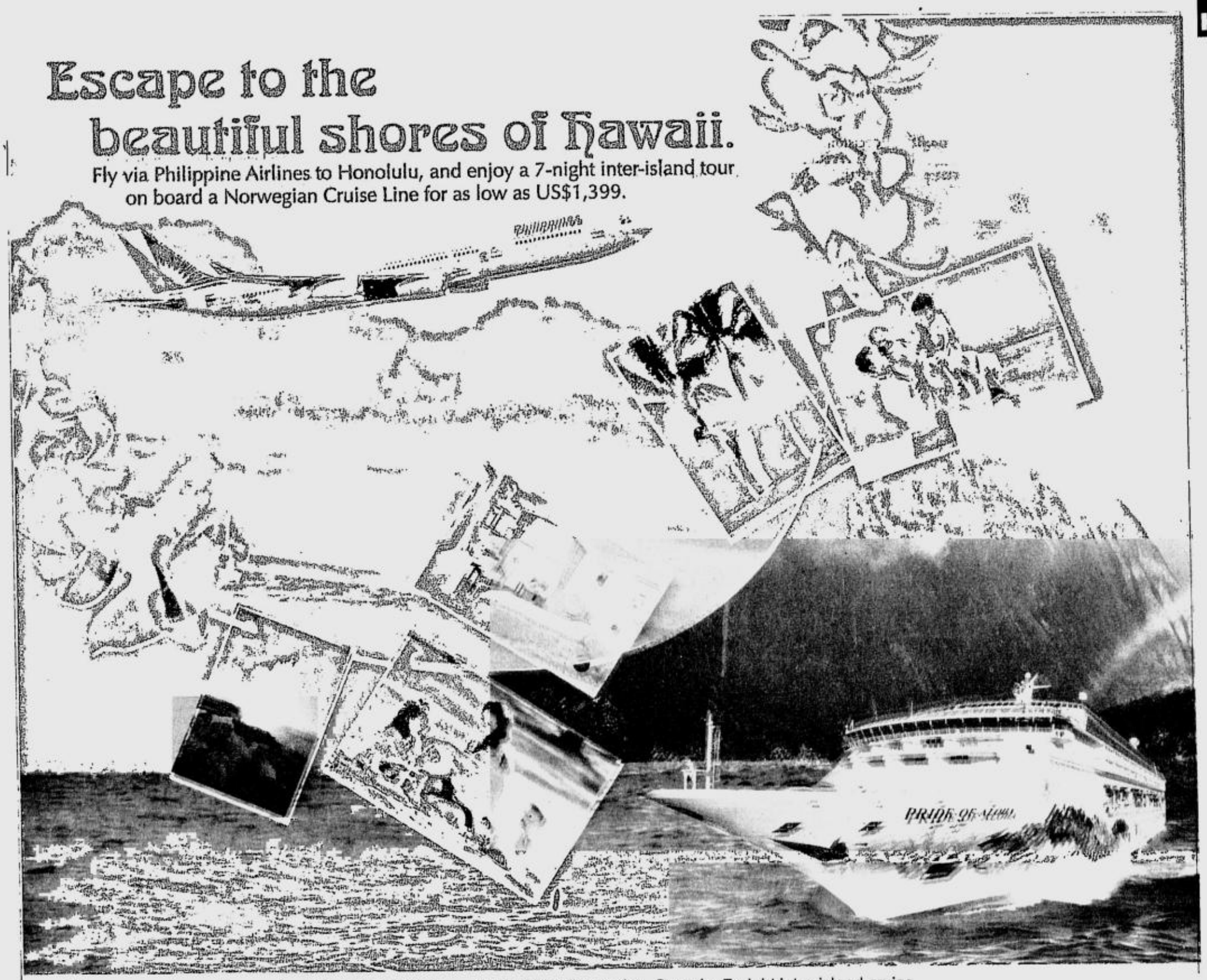

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Kris: Almost pregnant

ENTERTAINMENT personality Kris Aquino yesterday announced on live national television, on the talk show "The Buzz" she hosts, that she was pregnant by her husband, basketball player James Yap.

But wait a moment.

She emphasized, however, that she was only 98 percent certain of the pregnancy.

Boy Abunda, co-host of the show and close friend of the youngest daughter of former President Corazon Aquino, said the movie and television actress would have another medical exam—this time an ultra-sound—"just to make sure."

That examination will be on top of the many tests she had already taken, according to Abunda. "She used up at least 12 pregnancy test kits at home and visited the doctor once," he said. She will again see the doctor Wednesday, Abunda added.

If the latest exam erases the 2-percent uncertainty over her condition, the baby when delivered will be Aquino's second child, after her 12-year-old son Joshua by action star Phillip Salvador.

Aquino said that both Yap and Joshua were hoping for a baby boy.

But Abunda, perhaps predictably, said he was wishing for a girl "I could dress up."

The INQUIRER tried to talk with Aquino after the show, but Abunda said that she was attending Sunday Mass. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

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DOH: Fewer dengue, meningo cases but more deaths this year

By Christine O. Avendano

WHILE THERE ARE fewer cases of dengue and meningococcal disease this year, deaths from meningococcemia have increased, according to officials of the Department of Health.

Based on DOH computations, there was an 86 percent increase in meningo's case fatality rate (percentage of people who died from the disease) from January to September this year compared to the same period in 2005. This was attributed to the inability of hospitals to manage the cases and because those afflicted with the disease were not brought early enough to the hospital for treatment.

At a Malacañang briefing yesterday, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said there was a 42 percent decrease in dengue cases and an 84 percent decrease in meningo cases, compared to the same period last year.

From Jan. 1 to Sept. 9, there were 14,915 dengue cases but 188 patients succumbed to the mosquito-borne disease. There were 25,680 cases and 316 deaths during the same period last year. This translates to a 42 percent drop in cases and a 41 percent decrease in deaths.

Inability to treat

Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Western Visayas had the most number of dengue cases this year.

From January till September, there were 69 meningo cases and 27 people died from the disease. There were 421 cases and 89 deaths in the same period last year. This showed an 84 percent drop in cases and a 70 percent decrease in deaths.

Metro Manila and the Cordillera Autonomous Region registered the highest number of meningo cases this year.

Duque attributed the rise in meningo deaths to the inability of some hospitals to properly treat the patients or give them and the right medicine.

Scared to handle

"We're monitoring this and we're giving them (hospitals) help," he told reporters, noting that the devolution of health services in 1992 had resulted in differences in the quality of service provided by hospitals."

Duque also said that patients were brought to the hospitals too late resulting in higher death rates.

"The timing of bringing them to the hospital is a factor why the meningo fatality rate is high," he said.

Explaining why the case management of meningococcemia was not being handled properly in hospitals, Eric Tayag, head of the DOH's National Epidemiology Center, said some doctors might be scared to handle the cases.

It was possible that when patients were suspected of having meningo, they were turned away and then brought to another facility.

"We have seen such cases," Tayag said.

"The DOH is trying to educate hospitals on the proper treatment and response to meningo cases," he said. "We must educate doctors. They should not be afraid to give antibiotics immediately if they suspect meningo."

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Raps poised against GMA ...

From page A1

tion, according to the group.

The complaints may not bode well for the Philippines, which was elected to the UNHRC early this year. The Arroyo administration has already received calls from the international community to stop the extrajudicial killings in the country.

The administration has denied involvement in the abuses and said it has ordered its security forces to investigate and stop them.

'No justice here'

Ramos was carrying with him complaints and authorization letters from the victims of the alleged violations and their families, along with death certificates, police reports and other supporting documents to highlight what activists claim is a state-sanctioned violation of human rights in the Philippines.

"We are filing these complaints at the United Nations Human Rights Council because we see that justice here in our country can hardly be attained because those in power, particularly Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ... are the ones masterminding the killings and are also doing everything to escape culpability," Ramos said in a departure statement.

An official of the UNHRC will interview Ramos when he formally files the complaint on Sept. 19 in Geneva, where the UNHRC is based.

The KMP said it was initiating the complaint because 54 percent of those killed were peasants, based on records of the human rights group Karapatan. The group has put at over 800 the number of noncombatant civilians killed since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001, and said that 319 of the victims were activists.

"This is also our last recourse because Arroyo and her ilk have blocked all means for us to attain justice—from the local courts to impeachment (in Congress). She has blocked them all," KMP information officer Carl Ala said.

The 12 complaints to be filed by Ramos were collated from victims in southern and central Luzon and Bicol, and would be the first to be filed by a farmers' group against the government before the UNHRC.

Murder, torture

The 12 complaints dealt with, among others:

- The murders of Isias Manano in Oriental Mindoro in 2004, Romy Malabanan in Laguna in 2003, Nicanor de los Santos in Antipolo City in 2001, Leodegario Punzal in Bulacan in 2005 and Armando Javier in Nueva Ecija last year.
- The frustrated murder of Peter Gonzales in Quezon in 2004 and Amante Avelon in Zambales in March.
- The torture and illegal arrest of the "Tagaytay 5" in April, of the "Antipolo 4" in October 2005 and the "Lopez 6."
- The political persecution of KMP chair Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano and Ramos.

"This will embarrass the government internationally. The big implication is that the Philippines, a member of the UNHRC, is a violator of human rights," KMP legal counsel Jobert Pahilga said in a phone interview.

Pahilga said that while the KMP did not mean to embarrass the government, the group was left with no other recourse but to bring the issue before an international arbiter.

"We have exhausted all remedies in the Philippines and nothing happened. Most of the cases did not even merit a thorough investigation because there were no suspects or witnesses while those that were investigated were just dismissed," he said.

Aside from the actual complaints, Ramos brought with him documents from the AFP and the Department of National Defense related to the government's anti-insurgency campaign.

Fair shake

"These documents will prove to the international community, especially the UN, that it is indeed the policy of the Arroyo regime to kill progressive and militant group members," Ramos said.

The KMP said it did not trust the PNP Task Force Usig and the Melo Commission to give justice to the victims.

"At least at the UNHRC, we will have a fair shake because it is independent of (Arroyo), unlike the Task Force Usig and the Melo Commission," Ramos said.

She bridges humanitarian ...

From page A1

even as opportunities also opened up for the repatriation of uprooted millions to their homelands after years in asylum countries from Angola to Vietnam.

By the mid-1990s, Mrs. Ogata had found herself caring for a record 20 million refugees—defined under the 1951 Geneva Conventions as people outside of their countries fleeing a well-founded fear of persecution—as well as internally displaced people, or IDPs.

As a member of the UNHCR staff at headquarters and in the field then, I saw up close how Ogata agonized as she grappled with the multifaceted problems of mobilizing both humanitarian and military resources to protect refugees and IDPs in the dramatically altered rules of war and peace.

The creation of a "safe haven" inside Iraq in 1991 set a new model in the refugee protection regime and an innovative—if failed—rationale for international humanitarian intervention.

The UNHCR's record in saving Kurdish lives in the dead of winter in Iraq soon earned it more important mercy missions—first in the Balkans.

There, Ogata launched the airlift to Sarajevo, the crown jewel of the former Yugoslavia that had been under siege by Serb forces. It became history's longest running humanitarian air bridge that saved tens of thousands of lives for over three and a half years.

But the idea of protected humanitarian zones did not work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the summer of 1995, Slovodan Milosevic's troops stormed Srebrenica and massacred an estimated 8,000 Bosnian men before the eyes of Dutch peacekeepers who did not fire a shot.

Visiting an encampment hastily set up in Tuzla, Ogata was met by grieving Srebrenica women, their arms upraised. "Where were you when we needed you?" they cried to her.

A year earlier, the international community stood by as majority Hutus wielding machetes and clubs slaughtered 800,000 Tutsis in an appalling genocide that up to now roils the Great Lakes region of central Africa. UN rules of engagement had tied down the Belgian peacekeepers from stopping the carnage.

'Double standard'

One important lesson the 79-year-old Ogata learned as UN refugee commissioner from 1991 to 2000 was how to deal with a "double standard" that limited her ability to raise assistance for areas where the international community did not have a strategic interest.

During a trip to Africa at the height of the Kosovo crisis in 1999, an African president had complained that the Balkans got more aid even though more were suffering in the African wars.

"That's the reality of the political world," she replied, recounting the incident at an international conference later. Europeans did not want a million Kosovars in their backyard, she said.

The former human rights activist and dean of the faculty of foreign studies at Sophia University in Tokyo arrived yesterday in Manila, wearing a new hat—that of president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Japan is undertaking a major restructuring of its foreign assistance program to needy countries around the world.

A major component of the comprehensive overhaul of the country's Overseas Development Assistance will be a merger between Jica and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation which currently extends ODA loans to developing countries, including the Philippines.

The "new" Jica is expected to be operational in 2008 following the passage of enabling parliamentary legislation in the Diet and ongoing extensive merger discussions. It will then become the world's largest bilateral development agency with an annual budget of approximately $85 billion.

Bridging gap by herself

Jica's programs range from helping to build bridges and roads in some of the world's most inhospitable regions, to promoting environmental and community-based programs and enhancing human security—the latter, Ogata's main preoccupation.

For her, the transformation will be complete—from refugee czar to leader of the world's largest aid agency, finally enabling her to bridge the infamous gap between humanitarian and development aid—on her terms.

"We need something more than state security," she said in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, emphasizing the thrust of her agency under her administration in focussing on helping people caught in conflicts. "We need people security and (to address) a predominant lack of social safety net."

For the Philippines, Ogata said this means becoming more flexible and reordering priorities in the provision of health care, education and basic services, particularly in rebellion-torn Mindanao, where she will make a two-day visit beginning today.

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PDI

Sept. 30 – cops' new deadline to kill 'jueteng'

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE has renewed its warning to all regional commanders they would be sacked if they fail to curb the resurgent illegal numbers game "jueteng" in their respective jurisdictions.

"Our chief, Director General Oscar Calderon, has [ordered] all commanders in the field to conduct aggressive operations to stop jueteng in their respective areas of responsibility. Judgment day is Sept. 30," said PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

Pagdilao issued the statement following reports the illegal numbers game had not really abated notwithstanding an earlier anti-jueteng campaign.

He also called on the public to provide the PNP with information on jueteng operations in their localities.

"Information coming in from different sectors about jueteng is always welcome as this will allow the PNP leadership to monitor compliance by or the extent of efforts put in by commanders to carry out the order of the chief PNP," Pagdilao said.

"The chief PNP is very serious in his advocacy to put a halt to illegal activities such as jueteng and other forms of illegal gambling," he added.

Pagdilao reiterated Calderon's 3-strike policy against negligent or nonperforming police commanders.

"The PNP leadership has been in close coordination with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to remove further confusion in the implementation of the Small Town Lottery or STL so that it won't be used a coverup for jueteng operations," he said.

The STL is the government's legal numbers game. It is being run in some areas by admitted jueteng lords and is being used as a cover for the illegal numbers game.

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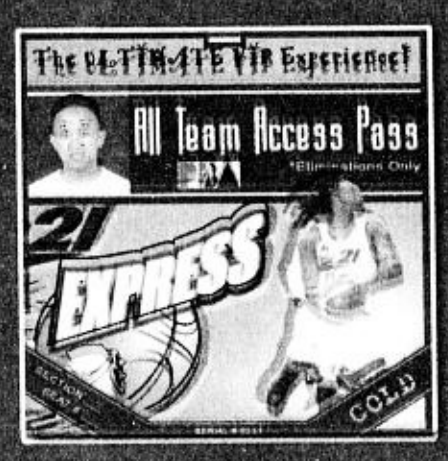

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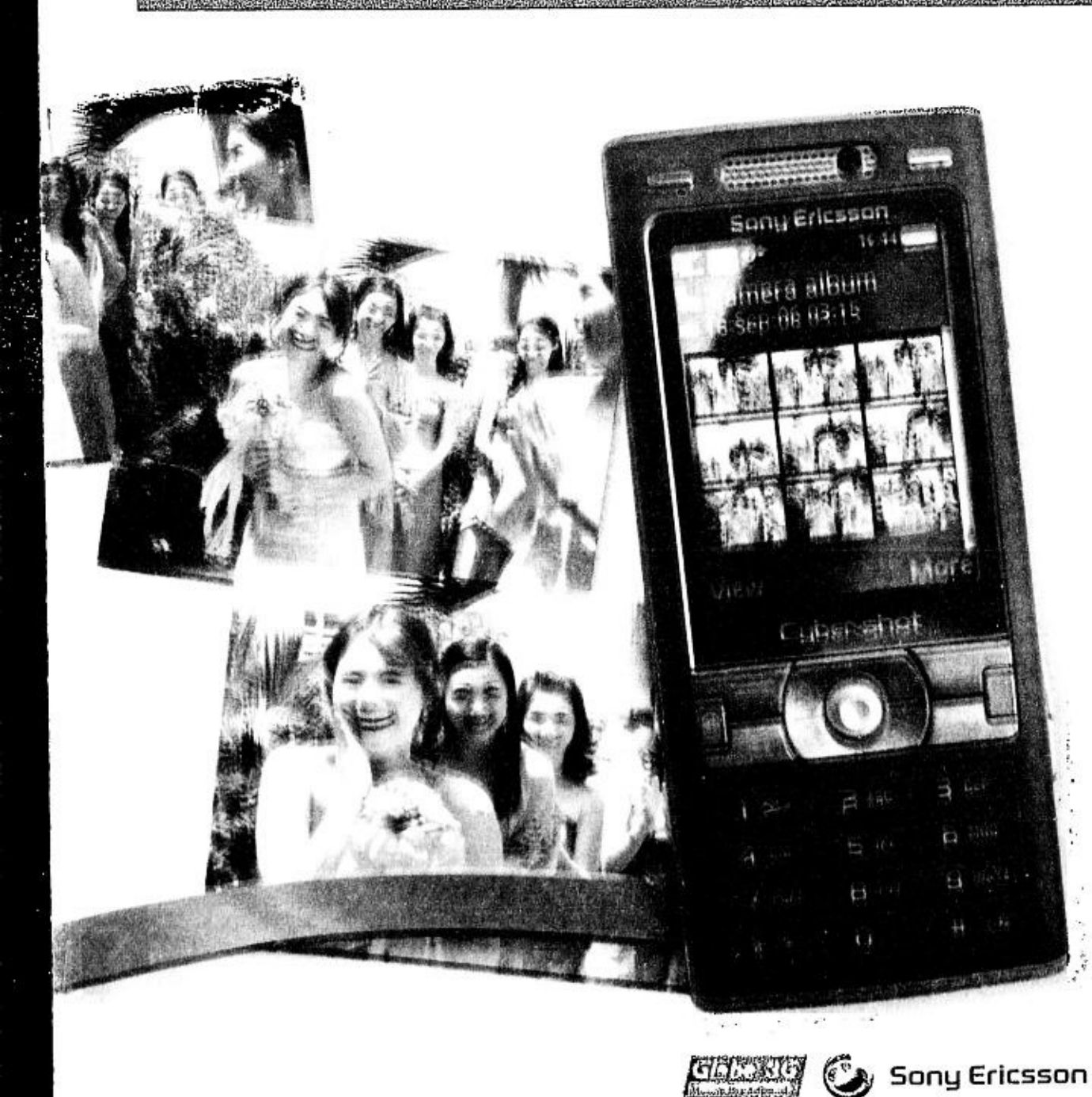

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En-riled

EVERY NOW AND THEN WE GET A REMINDER why magical realism is also a characteristically Filipino genre. Take the news, for instance, that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is now the new chair of the Senate committee on human rights.

Enrile, of course, was administrator of martial law. In the twilight years of the Marcos dictatorship, he famously became identified with a reform movement in the Armed Forces (of which, as minister of defense, he was nominally in charge). On Feb. 22, 1986, facing arrest by forces loyal to the dictator, he broke away from the Marcos regime, admitted his role in massive election fraud in his region, and cast his lot with Corazon Aquino.

EDITORIAL

Enrile, easily the ablest survivor in Philippine politics, has proven himself adept at re-invention. In 1988, already estranged from the Aquino administration he helped usher into history's stage, he ran for the Senate as a born-again Christian. His television spots, complete with unearthly light, were both effective and prescient, anticipating the role of religious charismatics in Philippine politics.

In 1995, he ran again for the Senate—in the process becoming embroiled in the "*dagdag-bawas*" (add-subtract) scandal. He was accused by fellow candidate Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. of benefiting from wholesale election fraud, an issue that foreshadowed the character of the Hello Garci controversy.

In 2004, three years after he famously tried to lay the predicate in the Estrada impeachment trial and as a result suffered a prolonged spell in public opinion hell, he made his most successful run for the Senate—as a single-issue politician. His single issue, of course, was the explosive PPA (power purchase adjustment).

Now Enrile is reinventing himself again, as the Senate's vanguard on human rights.

We believe this is an unfortunate development, and his appointment to the committee post a grievous mistake. We think his role as martial law administrator is already disqualification enough. Some of the most pressing human rights issues which continue to rile the public are rooted in the country's martial law experience. At a time when the Senate itself is facing questions of political relevance, what does the appointment of Enrile as the Senate's human rights custodian say? That the Senate—or at least the majority coalition—has the shortest of short-term memories, or gives short shrift to questions of propriety and relevance? We expect other pressing human rights issues, of course, to pass through the committee rooms under Enrile's guidance. These include the return of a politicized military, and its role in the body politic—two issues that will forever be identified with Enrile. Does the Senate majority want to convey that message, when it appoints a politician who has been associated with military adventurers himself?

Tellingly, Enrile thinks the real anniversary of the first Edsa People Power revolution should be observed on Feb. 22, the day the Reform the Armed Forces Movement regrouped in Camp Aguinaldo, rather than Feb. 25, when millions of people in the streets finally forced Marcos to flee Malacañang. This, surely, is a self-serving view of history—and an encouragement for soldiers to take matters into their own hands, and to look upon the act itself as its own justification. That way, we know all too well, lies human rights abuses.

Nothing has changed

YOU COULD SAY THAT LITTLE HAS HAPPENED ON THE WORLD stage during the five years that have passed since the terror attacks against New York and Washington. We have the same oppressors, the same threats, the same poverty, the same old conflicts that never seem to end.

It was clear that the United States had an agenda it was willing to carry out on its own if needed. Multilateralism à la carte—in other words a self-assumed right to pick and choose between international undertakings—was the guiding light. Now the world order would be reshaped, now the old structures and organizations would be sent to the garbage bin of history if they did not perform in a way that Washington expected.

FOREIGN COMMENT

Fighting terror, or the war on terrorism as Bush called it, overshadowed everything.

There has been an overconfidence in military solutions. There has been a conviction that all threats can be shot down. But the terror threat remains, as does the schism that resulted from the Iraq war. When the 10th anniversary of the terror attacks is remembered, will America once again be the positive and susceptible force that the world so badly needs? *Dagens Nyheter (Stockholm, Sweden)*

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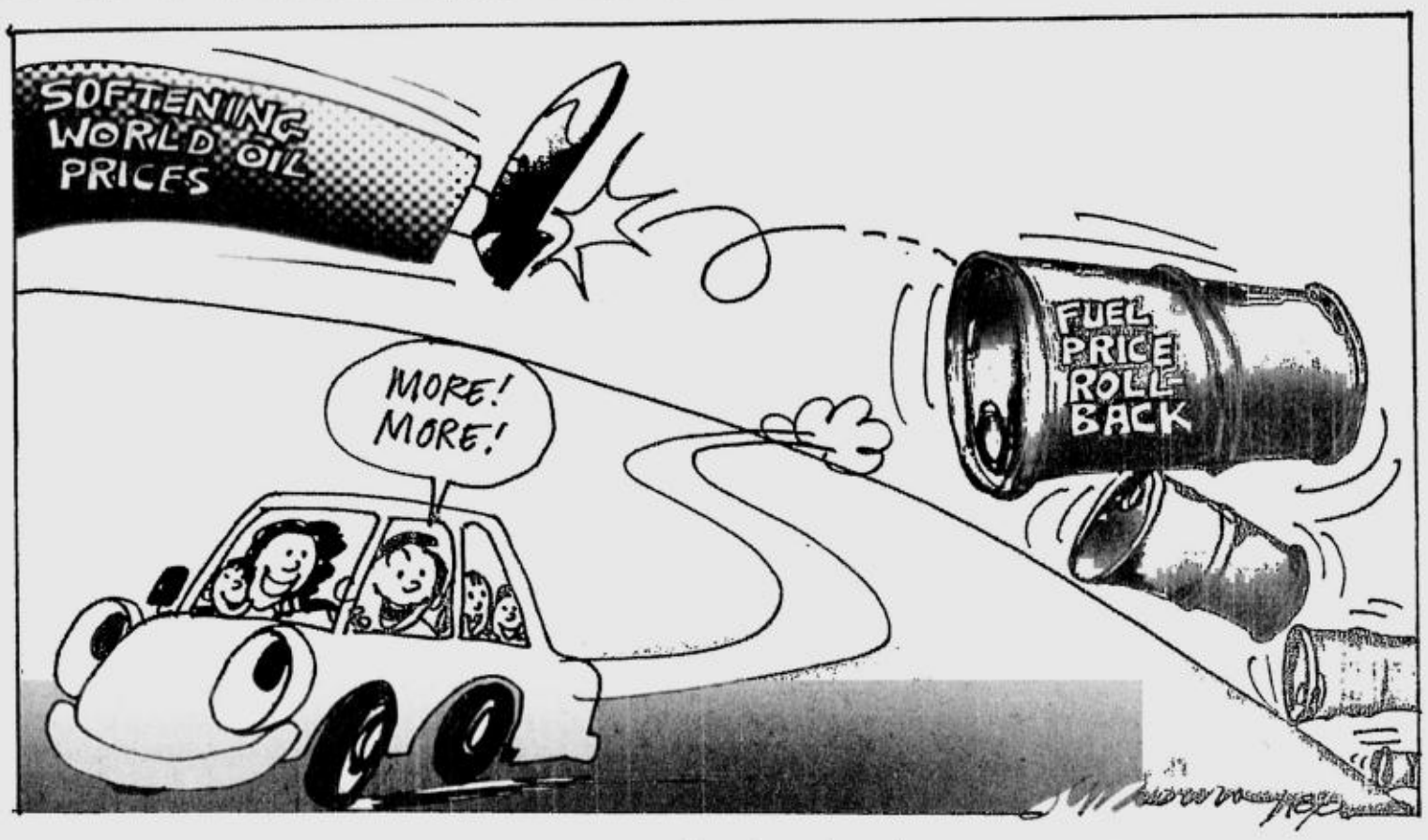

Why not just abolish the PCGG?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHY DOESN'T CONGRESS JUST ABOLISH the Presidential Commission on Good Government and get rid of the likes of Camilo Sabio and Ricardo Abcede? Its original life span is almost over anyway but those who benefit from it want Congress to extend its term.

The PCGG was created by President Corazon Aquino to preserve the assets of corporations owned or controlled by Marcos cronies and acquired with ill-gotten wealth—out of fear that these cronies would dissipate those assets. The PCGG did what it was supposed to do during the early days when it was headed by former Sen. Jovito Salonga. Succeeding administrations, however, saw it as a part of the spoils system and appointed (read: rewarded) protégés and camp followers to the PCGG, where they served as fiscal agents in sequestered corporations. The lucky appointees saw the sequestered corporations as veritable gold mines and, far from preserving PCGG assets, raided the coffers and ran them to the ground.

Almost all the formerly profitable companies sequestered by the PCGG are now near bankruptcy. Some have actually closed down. No assets were preserved. Only the PCGG commissioners and fiscal agents profited.

One case I am familiar with is that of The Daily Express, which used to be the No. 1 newspaper during martial law. It was founded by Marcos classmate Roberto S. Benedicto before martial law, and it was staffed by veteran professional journalists. It was sequestered by the PCGG when the Aquino administration took over. The printing presses, facilities and offices were used by the government and friends of the administration, after which the three presses and other equipment were sold one by one by the PCGG. Express' journalists and employees owned shares of stocks in the newspaper, which they had paid for on installment every payday. But when the presses were sold, the payments of these employees were not refunded to them by the PCGG. Where did the money go? The PCGG has not made an accounting of the proceeds from the sale of Express facilities until now.

The same is true with almost every other sequestered corporation. They were systematically looted by government nominees. The people who were supposed to preserve the assets were the ones who led the raids on the treasuries. The PCGG should make an accountin, of the assets of all sequestered companies. The Philcomsat scandal—which led to the present Senate investigation—is only the tip of the iceberg. But it gives a glimpse of how the funds and assets of sequestered corporations are systematically used to favor friends of whoever are the government nominees to the boards of these corporations.

After 20 years of sequestration, what has the PCGG recovered in court suits? All the funds turned over to the government were surrendered by the Marcos cronies, not recovered in court suits. The Marcos ill-gotten wealth from Swiss banks was recovered with the help of the Swiss government and the banks themselves, not through the efforts of the PCGG. But before the "recovered" wealth could benefit human rights victims and agrarian reform farmers, much of it was already gone—where to, nobody knows.

After 20 years, almost all the hundreds of cases against Imelda Marcos that are being prosecuted by PCGG lawyers have been dismissed. She has been convicted in only one, and it is not being enforced. Instead, Abcede, who is supposed to lead the charge against the Marcoses, was filmed dancing with Imelda herself, having a grand time with the accused. Only in the Philippines.

This is the same Abcede who has proposed a compromise (with the Marcoses) in which part of the loot would be returned to the Marcoses and all criminal charges against them dismissed. Worse, even without such a compromise, the rest of the charges still pending against Imelda are in danger of also being dismissed.

In this situation, what do we need the PCGG for? Through the years, it has proven itself not only to be useless but also to be another source of corruption. It is all commissions, and no good government. The sooner it is abolished, the more money we save for the taxpayers. The PCGG-initiated cases still pending can be turned over to the Department of Justice for further prosecution. And we will be rid of Sabio and Abcede.

* * *

Obviously, it is the policy of the Arroyo administration not to respect the two co-equal branches of government—the Supreme Court and Congress. It disregards decisions of the Supreme Court and taunts the Senate to do its worst. Long after the tribunal has declared illegal Executive Order 464, the calibrated preemptive response policy, etc., the executive continues to ignore the decisions.

Malacañang says the decisions are not yet final, the same being the subject of a motion for reconsideration. And the Court itself is encouraging the continued insults on itself by not resolving the motion quickly. After all, it is only a motion for reconsideration.

The tactic of the administration when decisions go against it is to stonewall.

"Let's see what you can do," it seems to tell its two co-equal branches of government. "It is us who control the police and military."

The defiance by Sabio, Abcede et al. is one more case in point. They refuse to appear before the Senate because they are obviously trying to hide something. If they have not done anything wrong, why would they be afraid to answer questions?

They insist that EO No. 1 exempts the PCGG commissioners from answering questions from other government agencies, never mind that President Aquino herself, who had issued the EO, and former Senator Salonga, who authored the EO, have declared that the EO did not mean to exempt them from congressional investigations.

What can you do with people like Sabio and Abcede?

Stop the killings!

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAID LAST WEEK THAT DOING UNTO JOVITO Palparan as he does to Bayan Muna, which is to send him to the next life, as the NPA threatened a couple of weeks ago, won't make things better, it will make things worse. It won't lessen the body count, it will jack it up.

At the very least, it will only give Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo her own 9/11, or the platform she needs to stand tall, which she very badly needs in more ways than one today. Particularly after the battering she got over the killings everywhere she went in her recent sortie abroad. At the very most, you can't kill a bad idea with another bad idea. The only way to kill a bad idea is with a good idea. The only way to stop the killings is not to kill as well. It is to bring back an appreciation for the preciousness of life. The only way to rein in the dogs of war is to summon them back with the pipes of peace.

In this country, I do mean pipes in quite a literal sense. We Filipinos may have gotten deaf to many things, but we have not gotten deaf to songs. We Filipinos may have gotten deaf to the din of politics but we have not gotten deaf to the cacophony of music. That is so especially for the youth who find in songs the best way to express themselves and communicate to others.

It was in recognition of this that on March 16, a group of us, with little help from our friends, put up a concert at the Sunken Garden in UP called "Never Again: The Concert for Freedom." GMA had just unleashed the dogs of dictatorship then with 1017, and we resolved to fight it with the rage of rhythm, the battering ram of chattering riffs. I personally was astonished by the enthusiasm with which it was greeted. The contributions poured in abundantly and, more importantly, the bands poured in spontaneously. There is a wellspring of anger at the stifling of freedom and there is an even bigger wellspring of goodwill for the sounds that break silence.

The signs of dictatorship have not disappeared, they have taken the more vicious form of wanton killings. Until the last couple of weeks, when GMA met with the revulsion of the civilized world, those killings were taking place at the rate of one a day—a dark parody of curbing population growth.

I still think music is the best way to fight it. With a little help from our friends, that's what we are doing all over again. This time though, it won't be a single concert, it will be a bar tour, entitled (with our every desire to stress its urgency) "Stop the Killings!" Every week, three bands or more will play in a bar in Metro Manila. They will either do covers or original compositions of antiwar, anti-violence and pro-peace songs. The songs need not be "political" in the narrow "protest" sense of the word. Songs like Gary Granada's "Banko," which proposes accommodation (easy enough to share a bench, why fight over it) and Tracy Chapman's "Behind the Wall" or Suzanne Vega's "Luka," which talk of domestic violence, should as much be part of it as the Jerks' "Rage" and Bob Dylan's "God on Our Side," which are more forthright excoriations of war and exploitation.

The bar tour kicks off on Sept. 21 for reasons that should be fairly obvious. Sept. 21 is the date Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law 34 years ago this Thursday, which became marked by the torture and slaughter of Filipinos, many of them barely past the flush of youth. Venue is 70s Bistro, 46 Anonas St., Quezon City, 8 p.m. The bands that will play there are (in order of playing time): The Dawn, The Jerks, Sandwich, Sugarfree, Brownman Revival, Radioactive Sago.

The next playing date is the first week of October, and every week after that. The bar tour goes on for as long as the killings go on. But our first leg ends on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day. If things work out, and with the help of the human rights groups, we'll hold a concert on that date.

So far the bands/singers that have offered to lend their magnificent services to the cause are: The Dawn, The Jerks, Radioactive Sago, Sandwich, Sugarfree, Brownman Revival, Gary Granada, Bayang Barrios, Cynthia Alexander, Chikoy Pura, Noel Cabangon, Susan Fernandez, Bagong Dugo, Gougou, Paramita, Spy, Giniling Festival, Session Road, Imago, Mojofly, Lyn Sherman, Color It Red, Paolo Santos, Pido, Parokya ni Edgar, Kamikaze. The music bars include: 70s Bistro, Conspiracy Garden Café, My Brother's Mustache, News Desk, Sa Guijo, Unplugged, Capone's, Pier 1 Mall of Asia, Handle Bar, Mayric's.

I'll announce the schedules and the additional bands/singers/bars in weeks to come.

The idea is to spread a culture of peace that is the antithesis of today's culture of war. As I keep saying, worse than the killings themselves is the ease or blitheness with which GMA and Palparan have been able to justify them—and the indifference or silence with which the public has greeted them. That is the bigger cause for alarm. If we don't watch out, we will lose our freedom completely, along with our lives, by sheer default. If we have to rebuild the antiwar culture that arose during the Vietnam War ages ago, then let's do it. If we have to raise the V sign again with our fingers to signify peace, then let's do it. That is the only real assurance the killings will stop. That is the only lasting assurance the "never again" will truly never happen again.

The culture of peace that we want to build here, of course, is not the one that has to do with burying our heads in the sand, or in the smoke rings of self-induced oblivion. The culture of peace we want to build here is the one that has to do with justice. Justice and peace: Those are not two concepts. Those are two sides of the same coin.

Let life flower, let song soar. Stop the killings!

Sabio vs Senate

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THE PRIVILEGE OF THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS is a right—given by the Constitution to any individual deprived of liberty—to seek from a court the immediate determination of the legality of one's detention.

That is where we are in the ongoing tussle between Camilo Sabio, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, and the Senate. The Supreme Court has honored Sabio's privilege. The Court has ordered that Sabio be brought to Court and that oral arguments for or against detention be held on Sept. 21. What will be some of the issues?

Sabio, of course, will reassert his claim that his detention is illegal as it violates Sec. 4(b) of Executive Order No. 1 which says "No member or staff of the commission [PCGG] shall be required to testify or produce in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its official cognizance."

It will be recalled that EO 1 was issued on Feb. 28, 1986, when the country was under Cory Aquino's revolutionary government. It was issued even before she promulgated the Freedom or Provisional Constitution and before the ratification of the 1987 Constitution. She was then in the process of reorganizing the executive offices and the judiciary, and the fate of the Batasang Pambansa had not yet been determined. The immunity provision therefore reflected Aquino's distrust of the government the people had just ousted, but whose tentacles were still in place.

The EO itself was issued on the perception that "vast resources of the government [had] been amassed by former President Ferdinand E. Marcos, his immediate family, relatives, and close associates both here and abroad" and that therefore "there [was] an urgent need to recover all ill-gotten wealth." The EO consists of six sections. The exercise of powers granted by it to the chair and members of the commission has repeatedly been upheld by the Supreme Court. It is Sabio's contention that the immunity in Sec. 4(b) subsists together with the continuing effectivity of the rest of EO 1.

As I understand it, however, the Senate is not challenging the validity of the entire EO 1. The Senate is simply saying that the second paragraph of the EO's Sec. 4, the paragraph Sabio relies on, has not only outlived its usefulness but also is incompatible with the current Constitution of the functioning democratic government.

The Senate has begun to wield the constitutional axe against the trunk of Sabio's tree. Already some provisions of the Constitution have been thrown against Sabio's position.

First, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile cites a provision in the Transitory Provisions, which became superior law when ratified on Feb. 2, 1987, and which says: "All existing laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, letters of instruction, and other executive issuances not inconsistent with this Constitution shall remain operative until amended, repealed or revoked." It is basic constitutional law in a democracy, after all, that a legislative act inconsistent with the Constitution is invalid even without having to wait for repeal by Congress.

Enrile has also used an ethical argument drawn from Article XI of the Constitution, which says: "Public office is a public trust. Public officers must at all times be accountable to the people ...." Senators, after all, are elected to represent the people and can be the channel for public accounting from public officers to the people. Needless to say, a PCGG commissioner clearly comes under the definition of public officers accountable to the people.

Sen. Richard Gordon, for his part, relies largely on the inherent power of the Senate to conduct "investigations in aid of legislation" and has pointed out that there are in fact pending bills touching on the subject being investigated. The Senate, even under the 1935 Constitution where there was no explicit grant of the power to conduct legislative investigations, had power to enforce its orders by causing the arrest and detention of uncooperative witnesses. The pre-war Senate did this to a Frenchman, and the Supreme Court clearly upheld the Senate. Now the power is explicit in the Constitution.

The Supreme Court in its deliberations will have to place the text and background of the immunity provision of EO 1 side by side with these constitutional provisions relied upon by the Senate to determine whether they are incompatible. Sabio, however, insists that under EO 1, he is answerable exclusively to the President. Translated, his claim means that he is above everyone except the President. Marvelous indeed!

So far the matter of "executive privilege" has not come up. Executive privilege was the armor President Macapagal-Arroyo donned when she issued EO 464. I would not be surprised if it should come up as Sabio's fall-back position. The Supreme Court had a lot to say about executive privilege in its decision striking down the gag order in EO 464. The Court's position is that, in the ultimate analysis, it is the Court that decides whether a matter is or is not of executive privilege. Meanwhile, Malacañang continues to prevent executive officials from appearing in investigations.

We are living in interesting times indeed, and sometimes we have to stand on our heads to be able to read what public officials are saying. We will await the Court's determination of the controversy between Sabio and the Senate and hope that the resolution will be something we can read standing up.

Creative approach to education reform

COMMENTARY

Florencio "Butch" Abad

I AM HEARTENED BY THE EMERGING BROAD MULTI-sectoral and multi-partisan support for basic education reforms. This manifests our people's growing awareness of our educational system's failure to equip our students with passable competence. Positively, I see it as an expression of our common aspiration for an educational system able to compete in an increasingly developing knowledge-based global society.

But I feel even more encouraged seeing that our reform advocates now realize that our engagement in education reform can no longer proceed business-as-usual. We need to ask why, despite so many years of various initiatives to address the weaknesses of our educational system, we have not made a significant advance in education reform.

Since our engagement in education reform is an expression of our shared values, it is only logical that we start the basic principles and values that should guide and characterize this social effort. During his visit to the country in 2004, a Harvard education expert, Dr. Howard Gardner, was asked what qualities or characteristics are common in the most successful educational systems in the world. He enumerated three. First, he said, when parents and their communities are intimately involved in the education of their young, schools perform better. I believe this partly explains the growing phenomenon of remote rural schools doing relatively better than their more endowed urban counterparts in national achievement tests, both in elementary and high school. In these areas, the school is still at the center of the community's concern.

Second, according to Gardner, where teaching is viewed as a treasured and lifelong craft and profession, the quality of instruction is markedly superior and the deprivations that characterize classroom conditions become surmountable. Indeed, we only have to recall stories of legendary teachers held in high regard in their communities because of their competence, dedication and commitment.

And, finally, Gardner observed, where it is insulated from partisan politics, an education system develops a long-term outlook, becomes responsive and accountable, and is able to sustain reforms. By this is meant that the determination of educational policies and institutional directions should not be the exclusive prerogative of the administration momentarily in power. They should be the product of broad consensus among the system's major stakeholders. This assumption is critical if we keep in mind that over the past 20 years, the Department of Education has had 10 secretaries; and that the average tenure of the last five appointees has been less than 18 months.

I am certain that more characteristics may come to mind. But the point is: we do need to stop and think about the kind of education system we need; for in the swirl of numerous and overlapping reform initiatives, we tend to lose our direction.

How then are we to proceed with our engagement? We may profit from Adam Kahane's simple but compelling book, "Solving Tough Problems," where he proposes a new approach to dealing with complex and hard problems that have become insoluble by conventional means. The chronic failure of our education system fits into this category of problems. Kahane notes that, in such problems, the interventions and the results expected are far apart in space and time. Therefore, the piece-by-piece approach normally applicable to simple problems will not work. Taking a cue from Kahane, we need to be focused, strategic and systemic in our thrust to improve our education system.

Ramon del Rosario, convenor of the Philippine Business for Education, echoed this thought when he proposed refocusing initiatives and intensifying collaboration in certain strategic reform initiatives in our school system. Whatever package of reforms is to be pursued, business, NGOs, communities and government must work under a "long-term, consistent and continuous perspective" focused on arresting the system-wide decline, Del Rosario emphasized.

Kahane further suggests that because of the complexity of the crisis, many existing solutions may no longer hold. We therefore have to cast aside our tendency toward bureaucratic responses and start thinking creatively. This is the only way we can capture emerging solutions and scale them up as needed in particular situations. We have examples of these solutions, which we can draw out from the existing multi-sectoral collaborations. A number of them—re-engineered school boards, performance-based incentives for teachers, school-improvement planning, to cite a few—can readily be incorporated system-wide.

Finally, Kahane emphasizes that since reform advocates have diverse perspectives and interests, the usual practice of resorting to hierarchy and experts as sources of all wisdom and answers should give way to as broad a participation as possible from within and outside the bureaucracy, most especially from the ground. In the words of Dr. Mario Taguiwalo, "This way, schools—rather than becoming mere outposts or extensions of a national administrative hierarchy—become faithful, constantly improving, ever higher quality, community-based institutions."

Admittedly, it is a huge challenge to cobble together numerous, diverse and dispersed initiatives. But because of the richness of the reform terrain, so much knowledge and practical wisdom are available and are continuously generated. These can be shared and used to develop and expand our human resources for sustained, intelligent education reform.

As a starting point, we must acknowledge and respect the fact that public education means many things to many people. The range of purposes associated with public education goes from the utilitarian (a process of acquiring capacities to gain economic value) to the ideal (a humane formation toward "truth, beauty and goodness").

But even as our purposes may differ, what is important is that we have a way of measuring the results of our interventions and of sharing the evidence of outcomes derived from such interventions. Then and only then—based on the merit of available evidence—can we truly engage in meaningful and productive debate and dialogue. The lessons drawn from such an exchange can then inform and expand our knowledge and practice about the nature, scope and quality of our common efforts toward desirable education outcomes.

Florencio "Butch" Abad is a former education secretary and trustee of the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITE-Gov).

Tony Blair's long goodbye

WORLD VIEW

Christopher Hitchens

IN EARLY 1999, PADDY ASHDOWN, THEN THE leader of Britain's Liberal Democratic Party (and since then, as Lord Ashdown, Europe's envoy in Bosnia), was found with a woman not his wife and was forced to resign his post. In his diaries, he describes calling on Prime Minister Tony Blair to inform him in advance of his intention to quit.

"Blair said: 'Going is the most difficult thing to do in politics. Too many people stay for too long. I would rather stop when people said, 'Why is he going?' than when they said, 'Why isn't he going?' Or, even worse, 'When is he going?' I hope I will be able to do it the same way."

This leaves us with an enduring mystery. Britain's most adept and skillful politician has evidently known for years exactly what not to do about arranging his departure, and yet he has chosen to ignore his own advice.

The mystery deepens when we recall that this consideration has been a part of Blair's calculations ever since he became leader of the Labor Party in 1994. At a dinner in a London restaurant named Granita, in what has since become the best-known coffee-stage chat in British history, Blair made a proposal to Gordon Brown, his rival for the leadership. That proposal fell in two parts. He, Blair, was demonstrably more "electable," and should lead Labor in deposing the ramshackle Tory regime of John Major. Then, with Labor in power, Brown could expect in due time to receive the mantle. On this condition, Brown agreed to give Blair a clear run.

That was three elections ago. What has kept Blair going? When I called on him in January this year, his press officer advised me not to bring up the obvious question. (I readily agreed, since an unanswerable question is a waste of time.) But no sooner had I asked the prime minister how he was than he replied with a grin: "It's nice to know one doesn't have to fight another election."

So there was the topic, inescapably, right in the middle of the room. For the rest of the conversation, and on the trip to the outskirts of London that I also took with him, Blair talked and acted as if he had a full prime ministerial agenda on everything from global warming to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He also behaved, when talking to voters and citizens, as if he was tirelessly running for office for a fourth time.

Some of the motivations for this are purely human: he likes being prime minister and is good at it. Moreover, next year he will have been prime minister for a decade, longer than any previous Labor leader. A little longer, and he would outlast Margaret Thatcher's record-breaking tenure, which must have been a temptation.

But Blair inexplicably chose to compound the mistake he had made with Brown, by announcing publicly, after having defeated the Tories for the third straight time, that he would not stand again. From then on, there was really only one question on peoples' minds, and it was the third—the worst—of the three questions he had mentioned to Ashdown: "When is he going?"

Blair ought to have known that politics is a pitiless business. For years, his back-bench members of parliament kept quiet because they knew that they owed their seats, and their majority, to him. Now, with the country insisting on an answer to the question he posed, they see him as a liability. And the trade unions, whose power he has done so much to reduce, have been open in saying that they want a new party leader. Thus, his announcement that he will leave Downing Street next year is no more than a reluctant acceptance of what has been reality for some time.

No politician is free from a sense of destiny, and I think that Blair's got the better of him. In the decision to send British forces to defend Sierra Leone from a barbaric invasion from Liberia, he faced down all those who warned of disaster and won great moral credit. In deploying soldiers to Afghanistan and Iraq, he was convinced that he was both morally correct and politically right to stand by Britain's main historic ally, the United States. (It is reasonably certain that he would not have trusted Brown to do any of these things in the face of any serious opposition, and also reasonably certain that he was correct to think so.)

When I first interviewed Blair, as newly elected Labor leader in 1994, he answered my question about the role of his Christianity in his politics by saying, "I can't stand politicians who go on about religion." If I had to date the moment when my own misgivings about him began, it would be the time—starting after Sept. 11, 2001—when he began to emphasize his own "faith" as a motivating factor in his moral stand.

A saving element in British politics is that such appeals are usually considered embarrassing. They may also suggest a slight tendency, on the part of those uttering them, to believe in some kind of supernatural endorsement. So Blair's concession that he must leave office—a decision so long postponed and so disastrously protracted—represents among other things a triumph of the mundane over the permanent temptation to believe that politics is about anything else.

Project Syndicate

Christopher Hitchens' most recent book is "Thomas Paine's Rights of Man."

Party assessments

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN 1907, THE FIRST ELECTION FOR THE PHILIPPINE Assembly was held, thus inaugurating a practically uninterrupted legislative tradition that will mark its centennial next year. (The House of Representatives will be a century old in 2007.)

Out of a national population of 7,844,000 people, 104,966 Filipinos were entitled to vote (slightly under the 143,029 voters that participated in the American presidential election in 1804). As it was, 98,251 voted 59 Nacionalistas, 16 Progresistas, and 5 Independents into office. The Nacionalistas would remain in control of the lower house for the next 40 years.

In 1916, when the Philippine Senate was established, the number of Nacionalistas in the Lower House increased to 75, while the opposition groups diminished: 7 Progresistas, 2 Terceristas and 6 Independents who then reinvented themselves into the Democrata Party. The closest the Democratas ever got to being successful, politically, was in the watershed year of 1922.

That year, out of a population of 10,991,100 and with an electorate of 2,061,000, the Nacionalistas broke up on the questions of how the party should be ruled and how it should manage legislative affairs. Our history paints this election as a crucial one, and it was. It is interesting to note, however, that what would be the most fiercely contested election of the day inspired only 685,000 qualified voters to actually cast their ballots. The turnout was definitely not a resounding endorsement of elections, the issues, or the parties. To the Lower House were elected 33 Colectivistas (former Nacionalistas), 22 Nacionalistas and 25 Democratas.

Even more interesting is the difference between the party figures above and the numbers on party affiliations at the time the candidacies were filed: 23 Colectivistas, 24 Nacionalistas, 26 Democrata and 10 Independents. By the day they took their office, the independents had become instant Colectivistas.

The Nacionalistas chose to reunite with the Colectivistas, creating the Partido Nacionalista Consolidado; thus the first of two historic chances to create a genuine two-party system was lost. (Even the Americans had hoped the Colectivistas and Nacionalistas would evolve into liberal and conservative parties.) The election in 1934 was another watershed as the electorate turned out divided on the issue of support for, or in rejection of, the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Independence Act; and so did the Nacionalistas; and the Democratas disbanded. The election for the Lower House resulted in an overwhelming victory for the antis (70), and a major defeat for the pros (19). As one observer put it, having disbanded, the old Democratas, who allied themselves with the antis, did better in that election than they ever did as a party. The "Democrata antis" won 20 seats.

In our country's first national election in September 1935, it was not a political party but a coalition of pros and antis that won. There would be no single administration party until 1937—the year the fusion of pros and antis was approved. The President of the Philippines at the time said the country would not have a strong opposition 10 or 50 years after independence. The next year saw the Nacionalistas with 98 seats in—for a 100 percent control of—the Lower House. Not a single oppositionist won, and at no other time before, or since, has an administration so dominated the legislature. By 1940, a "Partyless Democracy" was being proposed. It was hooted down by youth leaders and the press, but it was a statement of what had always been.

In 1941, out of a population of 16,952,000, there were around 3 million registered voters but only some 1,700,000 bothered to vote and they voted 95 Nacionalistas and 3 oppositionists into the Lower House. The politicians who flourished under this system didn't disappear with World War II, or even during the populism reinvented by Ramon Magsaysay. They held on until Diosdado Macapagal.

In the elections of 1946, six Democratic alliance congressmen and one Nacionalista Party member were not allowed to take their seats in the Lower House by the Liberal Party. It was a sign of things to come. The party system, under fairly strong leaders such as Manuel Roxas and Magsaysay, was instinctively a one-party system which believed democracy consisted of factions within the ruling party. Two details, I think, suggest that the electorate has always known this and has been consistently underwhelmed by it. In 1953, there were 5,603,000 registered voters but only 3,592,244 cast their votes—even in that famous Magsaysay landslide.

Since then, party discipline has been replaced with an even more personalistic and even less party-conscious culture. The year 1955 saw the invention of the "guest candidate" in senatorial slates; 1957, the first plurality president; with Macapagal in 1961, the first president elected without a majority in the House, and so party-raiding ensued—a situation repeated by Joseph Estrada in 1998—with similar results: both quickly lost power.

And in 1965 the Party of Philippine Progress—the suicidal precursor of all reformist mainstream parties like Reporma, Promdi and Aksyon—was formed (harking to the Magsaysay plan of 1957) under the leadership of Raul Manglapus and Manuel Manahan. In 1969, Macapagal imported Genaro Magsaysay to try to deadlock the party convention and have himself nominated as candidate. The result was Serging Osmeña—who inadvertently helped ensure Marcos won a second term. In 1972 Marcos padlocked Congress, then recreated it in 1978 as a unicameral national assembly, with majorities (151 KBL to 16 opposition in 1978, 123 KBL to 60 opposition in 1984) similar to Cory Aquino's in the reestablished House of Representatives of 1987: 149 administration-allied congressmen to 49 oppositionists then—a "proportion" that has endured to this day. In sum, we have had a one-party government for a century, and let no one tell you otherwise.

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Elite not only neo-colonialists, but also accomplished grafters

ERNESTO MAGTOTO IN HIS letter (PDI, 7/15/06) linked the ruling elite to graft and corruption. I connect them to more than that.

When the Americans installed them in power in 1905 following the practice—among colonial powers—of passing the power to rule to the local elite, they became responsible for governance—or "misgovernance." Suffrage was limited to males who owned property and who could write Spanish or English—hardly the qualifications of a leadership concerned with love of country.

The purpose of making the elite play the role of rulers was to perpetuate neo-colonial control and exploitation even if the colony had been granted "independence." (The object of colonial conquest is always economic gain and never altruism.) Naturally, the colonial master installed an economic system that benefited itself and not the Filipino masses. For their economic benefit, the elite were gifted with the privilege of trade quotas.

The "accomplishments" of the ruling elite are very numerous. Here are a few random samples:

1. The rejection of the ruling elite of impeachment charges against former election commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo indicates that the *trapos* are dominant in Congress. Impeachment may only be a political process and not judicial, but the paramount consideration of all is the people's right to know.

2. The national anthem pays homage to those who died for our country, but not for Macario Sakay, Felipe Salvador and Dionisio Magbuelas, all of whom were hanged by the Americans as bandits. Serafin Quiason, then chair of the National Historical Institute during the Centennial Celebration, wrote the INQUIRER (PDI, 5/21/98) that they are also heroes. Does Congress agree? Is it necessary to ask the permission of the US government in order to officially vindicate them?

3. There are college graduates who have not heard about Sakay et al. Is the Department of Education deliberately suppressing knowledge of the Philippine-American War? Sovereign nations are normally proud of their history. Has ours become too shameful that it must be subsumed under another subject, as was done by the DepEd by way of the Basic Education Curriculum? This policy ceased to be an enigma when it was revealed to be a World Bank requirement.

4. The Filipino lives in an environment that reflects the perverted patriotism of the ruling elite. We have Liwasang Bonifacio, a monument to nationalism, and Taft Avenue, a monument to imperialism. The perversion goes deeper with the presence of Cayetano Arellano and Epifanio de los Santos in the country's pantheon of heroes. Arellano went over to the American side even before the start of hostilities while De los Santos was the prosecutor who sent Salvador to the gallows. Both were members of the colonial bureaucracy whose duty was, in reality, to eliminate Filipino nationalists for the Americans through "the rule of law."

—VIRGILIO V. BAYBAY,
Ilawod, Guinobatan,
Albay 4503

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Sign that waiver for transparency

WE, THE OFFICERS AND MEMbers of the Fil-Am Fil-Can Alliance, an apolitical group based in Richmond, B.C., Canada, join Rep. Peter Alan Cayetano in asking the First Family to sign a waiver allowing him (Cayetano) and other international groups to find out the truth about their allegedly huge secret bank deposits in Brunei, Switzerland, Canada, Austria, the United States and the Philippines.

The Arroyos should disclose as well the true commercial value of their buildings and mansion in San Francisco, California. They should also be told and not forget the "*mga umuugong na balita*" (talk of the town) here in North America about their alleged newly acquired huge houses and real estate property in the cities of Vancouver and Richmond which are in the name of dummies—though, this time not in the name of Jose Pidal; they should finally put an end to these festering issues.

President Macapagal-Arroyo keeps on saying that she wants transparency in her government and that she will never hesitate to put "the crooks or *mandarambong* or *mga dugo ng* first class *na magnanakaw*" to jail, no matter who they are, even if they are members of her family. Unfortunately, we haven't yet heard if proper charges have been filed in court against these people.

There are over eight million overseas Filipino workers worldwide. They are working very hard, many taking up two or more jobs just to earn more and save their relatives in the Philippines from hunger.

Ms Arroyo call us (OFWs) modern-day heroes because we help a lot in keeping the Philippine economy afloat. Maybe, she should be told that it is an embarrassment for us when we are told by foreign nationals that "your President is a crook." We consider this an affront and we feel this is unfair to us. We do not deserve to be insulted and we want them to respect us.

Since transparency is a policy of her administration, we urge her now to sign the waiver—to put to rest, once and for all, issues about her family's alleged hidden wealth, because they affect us, too.

—MIKE MORENO,
filamfilcanalliance@yahoo.ca

Private use of public vehicles

THE FILING OF MALVERSATION cases against 32 government executives for unauthorized use of government vehicles (PDI, 9/5/06) should serve as a warning to others engaging in the same anomalous practice.

It seems that this practice of using government vehicles for private purpose has become a "culture" among public officials, especially the elected ones (not all) who immediately harbor delusions of grandeur upon being elected.

If Operation Red Plate reaches the provinces, where watchdogs, like the media, are scarce, we can be sure there will be more apprehensions and subpoenas issued to more erring public officials.

In the provinces, especially the poor ones, the *provincianos* do not have the time and means to expose anomalous practices of abusive public officials, more so because their main concern is to eke out a living and survive through grinding poverty; thus they are not as aware of and concerned about the affairs of government as their counterparts in the cities.

With Operation Red Plate, the government will surely be able to save more public funds and public officials might yet be reminded that a public office is a public trust.

—MARIO Y. BOCO,
mario_boco@yahoo.com

Gonzalez's naked empress

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONzalez riles against UP students running naked on the state university campus in a symbolic gesture of protest. But he does not protest a fake President's running the country—without the clothes of legitimacy—to the ground. Gonzalez's empress has no clothes. These UP students can see that. Everyone can see that. But Gonzalez doesn't.

Gonzalez is either blind and deaf or pretending that he can't see the nakedness of his empress. I would not ask from which school he comes because he is the problem, not his school.

Thank God for UP and its students who enlighten the country in these dark ages. But not everyone from UP can resist the dark side of the force. A case in point is Mike Defensor. Gonzalez and his ilk can have him for all we care.

Nudity is in the eye of the beholder. This government and its minions, especially the President-pretender, are the ones truly naked—devoid of mandate, honesty, truthfulness, decency, humanity, civility, class, justice and honor.

—DENNIS REYES,
bulungguy2@yahoo.com

Uncalled for comments on Supreme Court decision

THIS IS IN REACTION TO VICtor Agustin's Aug. 30 and Sept. 1 columns, where he published excerpts from a Supreme Court decision on a case initiated by Vinson Pineda (GR No. 155224), making uncalled for comments about the decision even before we received a copy of it and before it had become final. As a matter of fact, we intend to file a motion for reconsideration of that decision.

Worse, Agustin erroneously reported that Pineda sued us, when in fact we were the ones who sued Pineda for non-payment of fair and reasonable fees after winning for him an annulment case and property dispute that netted him pieces of property worth P500 million.

Agustin further claimed that the Court merely reduced the lawyer's fees to P1 million for the principal counsel and P500,000 for each of his associates. The fact is the decision completely deleted the small award of the Court of Appeals in our favor, as corrected by Agustin in the Sept. 1 issue of the INQUIRER.

—CLODUALDO C. DE JESUS,
CARLOS AMBROSIO,
EMMANUEL MARIANO,
De Jesus & Associates,
Suite 203, Jade Centre
Office Condominium,
105 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City

GMA's unbelievable staying power

IF I MAY ADD TO NICOLAS Valera's comments regarding the leadership qualities of President Macapagal-Arroyo (PDI, 9/2/06), it cannot be denied that she has unbelievable staying power, without which a person of lesser guts and determination would have called it quits.

Deserted by her closest advisers, threatened by a military coup and challenged by impeachment charges amid natural disasters, what more can we say about her?

I attribute these leadership qualities to her strong-willed mother, Eva Macapagal, and her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, a dynamic leader who, together with the leaders of Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia in his time, pioneered the Maphilindo sphere of security and economy in Southeast Asia. In passing, I served briefly the late President as a member of the Presidential Security Battalion in 1964.

So let's give President Arroyo a respite from baseless accusations and unfair bashing (by the media) which are bringing us nowhere—for the sake of our people.

—GUILLERMO K. FLORES,
retired AFP officer,
c/o Veterans Memorial Medical
Hospital Rehabilitation Center,
5 GSIS Ave., Project 8, QC

The second killing of murdered anti-corruption militants

IN THE INTEREST OF TRUTH and justice, allow us to take up the cudgels for our fallen martyr, a dear friend, a genuine labor leader and public servant—Paquito "Pax" Diaz, chair of Courage Eastern Visayas.

To say that he was an "enemy of the people" and that he was executed by the New People's Army is to kill him a second time.

Thus, we, at Courage, express our outrage at PNP Task Force Usig's announcement that, according to its findings, it was the NPA's Eastern Visayas regional party committee that ordered the execution of Diaz. This is the same blatant lie—about an internal purge of leftist ranks—being peddled by the national security adviser, the justice secretary, the AFP, PNP and Malacañang. No wonder these same officials earlier viciously labeled Courage as one of the "CPP/NPA front organizations."

We condemn this renewed attempt to systematically cover the truth about a national policy (grand conspiracy) to wipe out those opposing the anti-people policies of the Arroyo administration. The PNP is fooling nobody but itself if it thinks that it can spare the administration from the stigma of political killings. Only police officials who are comfortable with being accused of corruption can have the temerity to malign Diaz as a criminal.

Diaz was known for ardently espousing Courage's anti-corruption campaigns and for championing the cause of whistle-blowers, most of whom were ordinary government employees like him. As a municipal agrarian reform officer, he was keen on upholding genuine public service. As a former local radio commentator, he was hardest on corrupt officials.

Diaz was placed in the "order of battle" of the military and subsequently murdered because he was the chair of Courage Eastern Visayas.

In less than a year, Courage has lost two high-ranking leaders: Diaz and Albert Terredaño, another DAR employee and Courage Abra provincial chair. In 2005, Sammy Dote, Courage Samar secretary general, was shot dead. There have been a number of government employees murdered following a pattern of impunity; and there are more in the military's order of battle.

But we are not terrified. It seems the police have to kill Courage people "twice" because they have become harder to kill.

—FERDINAND R. GAITE,
national president,
Confederation for Unity,
Recognition and Advancement of
Government Employees
(Courage), 9A K-F Street,
Kamuning, Quezon City

Focus on breach, not on anti-terrorist

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS story titled "Palace: file raps vs terror expert." (PDI, 9/7/06) I noticed that the government has trained its guns on the anti-terrorism expert and not on the breach of security at the airport. This certainly appears like an attempt to cover up the inefficiency of the airport security system by focusing the spotlight on the expert.

I am interested to know if what was assembled was a real or a mock bomb. I do not think the expert was that stupid to set up a bomb that could accidentally explode and kill people.

The spotlight should be trained on the people in charge of airport security and they should explain to the people how the "breach" happened and how they have responded to it for the short and long term—to make us feel more secure and confident with air travel.

—PURA FLOR D. ISLETA, M.D.,
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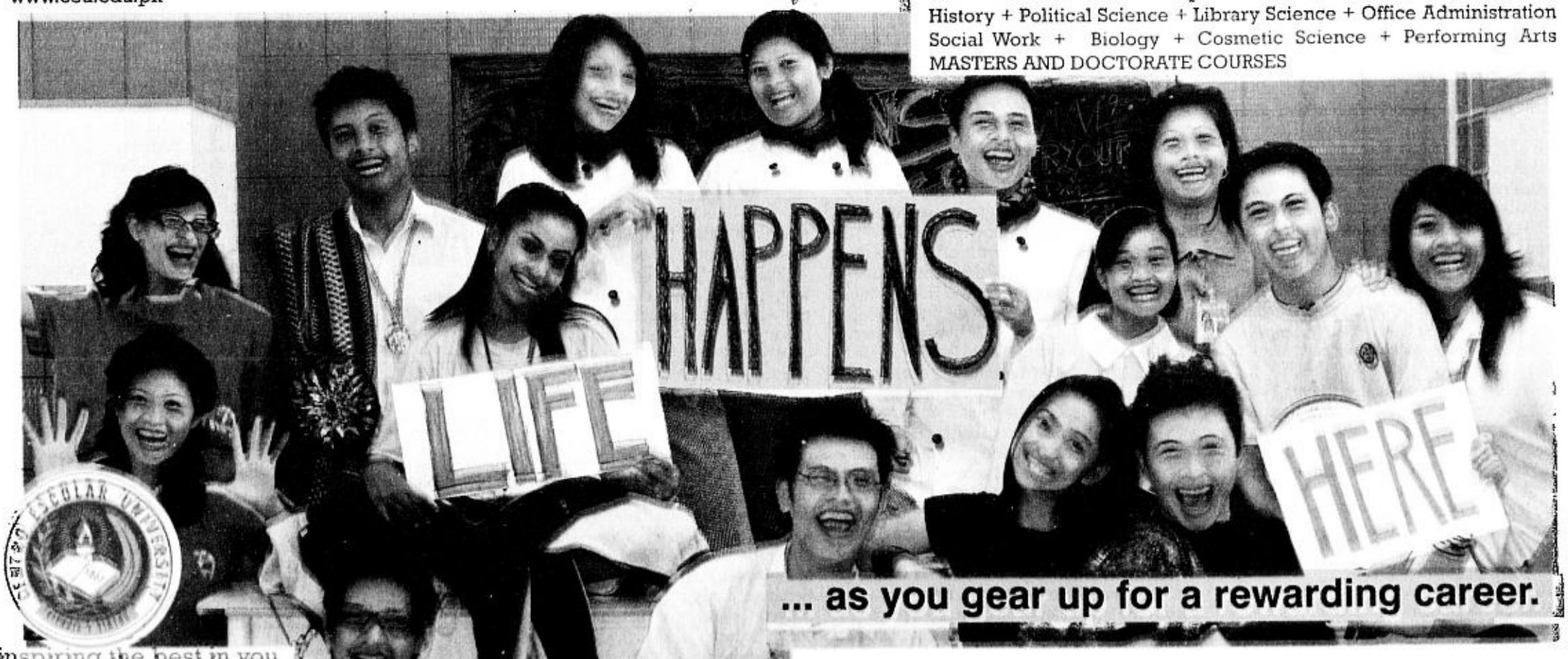

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US to step up antiterror training of Philippine troops

From page A1

Filipino and American soldiers who died fighting side-by-side in wars of the Pacific.

"I met with Pacom officials to review our security arrangements, and I am proud that I have been able to move this vital strategic partnership to a much better place than 15 years ago," she said.

Ms Arroyo placed a wreath adorned with red, white and blue ribbons in front of the plaque, which is set on a piece of rock taken from the island of Corregidor, a key World War II battleground.

The rock and plaque will remain at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific as a symbol of the strong military ties between the Philippines and the United States, she said.

Cruz, who was present at the meeting between Ms Arroyo and Alford, said the US Pacific Command had agreed to provide the AFP with training programs lasting four to six months.

Up to 12 AFP battalions will receive specialized US training every year, according to the defense secretary. All military units are expected to have undergone US training by 2012.

"The AFP and the US Pacific Command will do a standardized program of instructions, methodology and doctrine on how to set up a training facility in Fort Magsaysay and how to build modules," Cruz said.

Asked if the upgrading of combat skills and equipment would represent the US contribution to the all-out war against communist rebels, Cruz said: "Indirectly only. The skill sets that we will use for terror and communists are all the same. If we train these particular divisions, either way these capabilities can be used for internal security."

Cruz stressed that the Philippines was not seeking direct US help in the AFP's counterinsurgency campaign.

"The use of this capability against the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army) is a sovereign judgment

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo attends a memorial service honoring Filipino and US soldiers who died during World War II in the Philippines, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. REUTERS

and we will use it for that. I don't want to go that far ahead," he said.

Cruz said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and his top generals would be implementing soon their campaign plans against the communist guerrillas.

Strong allies

At the ceremony, attended by dignitaries of both countries and many Filipino-American and Filipino veterans, Ms Arroyo said the Philippines and the United States continued to be strong allies in the war on terrorism after fighting together in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

"We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States in the global war on terrorism," she said. "Our countries agree on common goals ... Shared democratic values form the foundation of our relationship."

Ms Arroyo stopped in Hawaii on Saturday for a one-day visit—the final leg of her five-nation, nine-day trip around the world. She had traveled to Finland, Belgium, England and Cuba. She is scheduled to leave Hawaii on Sunday morning to return home.

She encouraged efforts in the US Congress to give equal benefits to Filipino scouts and other veterans who fought beside US soldiers during World War II.

"We hope the US Congress will ... bring justice to our Filipino veterans," Ms Arroyo said.

Solemn backdrop

The National Memorial Cemetery on Oahu, where more than 34,000 veterans of Pacific wars are interred, provided a solemn backdrop for the ceremony. The US military launched several artillery salutes and flew three helicopters over the grave site in a missing man formation.

"The partnership of our two nations is bound by several battles," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, who was an Army soldier in Europe during World War II. "We will continue to fight to right the wrong that was committed" when veterans benefits were denied to Filipino veterans.

Filipino veterans in attendance said they were glad their service would not be forgotten.

"This is a very significant thing we have to remember," said veteran Narzal Concepcion. "We were in it together in the Philippines defending democracy."

Earlier in the day, Ms Arroyo dedicated a marker and statue of a Filipino plantation worker at the Filipino Community Center. A dozen people staged a protest outside the center. In the evening, she attended an official state reception. *With a report from AP*

Talking robot looks for friends on Internet

From page A1

And one quirk: He doesn't really exist.

George is a piece of software, arguably the best of the speaking "chatbots" or talking robots. He recently received the Loebner prize in Britain, a scientific award recognizing the machines that are best capable of matching the most realistic human dialogues with their own.

Seven years after being invented, George evolved a few months ago into what experts call an avatar, gaining a physical image, a voice and voice recognition software.

One can now have an oral discussion with him over the Internet—"face to face." George appears on the website www.jabberwacky.com and takes the form of a thin, bald man with yellow glasses who wears a white turtleneck sweater.

He can smile, laugh, sulk and bang his fist on his virtual table. He can turn on the charm and wax romantic. But he can also turn coarse at times.

It isn't as if George only learned good manners.

10 M conversations

All that he knows, he has accumulated in some 10 million conversations online. And he has not forgotten a single word.

"The machine borrows the intelligence and the words of the people it talks with, and little by little learns how to place responses in the correct context of a conversation," Rollo Carpenter, an expert in artificial intelligence and the person who conceived of George, explained to Agence France Presse.

George has one goal—to make friends on the Internet. He is talkative and persevering. He can restart lackadaisical conversations ad infinitum and for good reason—the more he speaks, the more relevant his remarks become.

"The percentage of correct answers rises constantly, as the database increases," Carpenter said. "The more that is added, the more he is able to distinguish between several choices of answers."

The first chatbot, albeit a basic version, was created in the 1980s, but there are now a growing number of them on the Internet with names ranging from Billy and Alice to Chomskybot and the John Lennon Artificial Intelligence Project, an attempt to recreate the personality of the late Beatle.

A selection can be found http://www.botspot.com/pages/chatbots.html.

But the creators of George say he is the forerunner of a coming generation of talking robots which inventors and marketing experts hope will unlock vast commercial possibilities.

Icogno, Carpenter's company, is talking with marketing experts who say avatars will soon be able to suggest customers' purchases at supermarkets, using their previous purchases to determine tastes and interests.

Call centers

Another possibility being considered in the medium term—call centers, where just one avatar could respond to telephone calls from millions of customers at the same time.

Celebrities may also want to program George's more advanced descendants to make imitations of themselves for their fans, marketing experts forecast.

Another suggestion is the concept of "visual pets," proposed by Tim Child, a partner at Icogno, while for a younger audience there are plans to create teddy bears able to speak with their owners.

The avatars could also be used as video game partners, or play the role of historical characters to illustrate lessons in class.

Is George the pioneer of a generation of avatars to be used by children's teachers?

Carpenter thinks so, insisting "the interactive process is the best means of learning." *AFP*

After trip, GMA legitimacy sinks in quicksand

From page A1

Unfortunately for Sabio, he found to his grief he could not fight the Senate's arrogance with his. Few public institutions in this so-called democratic society can match the arbitrariness and arrogance of the senators in being abusive on their hapless victims who have been summoned to give evidence, while acting on behalf of the "right of the public to know."

Senate hearings, to which executive department officials have been summoned, have tended to be a test of strength, although they have been cloaked with the constitutional principle of "separation of powers" within the system of check and balance of co-equal departments. They have their own version of martial law and their ability, as a gang, to bully witnesses is fearsome.

But this confrontation in the Senate is a sideshow to the more critical issues facing the President on her arrival.

Specter of killings

Of all the foreign trips in her presidency so far, nothing is more bereft of concrete benefits, especially economic windfalls, than the one just concluded.

This trip was hounded from the beginning to the end by the specter of human rights violations arising from the extrajudicial execution of between 250 (according to an INQUIRER count) and 319 (according to a human rights group's tally) political activists linked to the legal left since 2001. The figure does not include the 47 journalists killed during the period.

Foreign policy, including presidential state visits, has been a useful function to relieve domestic political pressure and enhance the legitimacy of a government under siege. International goodwill is a critical underpinning for the legitimacy of a regime and helps reinforce it.

No glow from Europe

Thus, when the President left Europe, she was not basking in the glow of international goodwill, especially from the European Union.

The European Union has rather demanding standards on respect for human rights as a cornerstone of democratic polity—as important as a relatively honest governance and a market-driven and stable economy.

By all standards, Ms Arroyo was found wanting by the Europeans. They were, most of all, concerned about the killings in the Philippines.

Recurring theme

European leaders lost no time in calling the attention of Ms Arroyo to the appalling human rights record of the government. They didn't ease pressure on her from the time she arrived in Helsinki, where she attended the Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem).

The Finnish foreign minister, Erikki Toumoija, sounded the keynote of the EU message to her. Speaking at a conference of European NGOs, the minister said the European Union wanted "to see an end to the political killings which still form a harsh reality of that country."

This theme recurred with increased emphasis as Ms Arroyo attended the Asem summit and during a round of talks with EU leaders up to the level of the European Commission, the European Union's highest executive body.

Presidential nightmare

This theme became Ms Arroyo's nightmare.

The Europeans took her government to task for its accountability, exerting pressure it did not feel in the homeland. They insisted that she stop the killings and use all her executive powers to stop the executions. They were not asking for excuses. They wanted results.

The President was disarmed and shocked by the Europeans' reaction. She did not expect it and was unprepared for the shock, as indicated by her feeble response—inviting the European Union to send representatives to Manila to look into the situation and observe the inquiry of the Melo Commission into the killings.

Gilding the lily

The response suggests that Ms Arroyo has underestimated the strength of the Europeans' concerns. It also suggests that the Philippine diplomatic missions in Europe had not sufficiently impressed on her the seriousness of the issue with the Europeans.

Maybe they did not want to tell Ms Arroyo what she did not like to hear, so they gilded the lily in their dispatches to the home office.

The result was a diplomatic fiasco.

When she flew to Cuba, Ms Arroyo left behind in Europe the shambles of a diplomatic initiative that ended with her international legitimacy impaired among the Philippines' most important friends among the democracies.

Monkey on her back

The human rights monkey did not get off her back when Ms Arroyo flew out of the continent. It has continued to cling to her back.

Back home, the Melo Commission is on trial and on probation as far as the Europeans and the Amnesty International are concerned.

In regard to legitimacy, the issue arising from the "Garci tapes" has refused to go away. But a new issue concerning legitimacy has sprouted—probably more damaging than the tapes on alleged election cheating in 2004. It is the issue of human rights and justice.

Honest elections are the foundation of a mandate to govern derived from the sovereign will of the people. It is not the sole source of legitimacy.

But this electoral mandate is undermined when an elected government cannot ensure impartial justice for the people, regardless of their political beliefs.

A government that cannot protect citizens from lawless killings, regardless of who are behind them, loses the legitimacy to continue to govern. A government that cannot use its constitutional powers to stop extrajudicial executions has no right to rule.

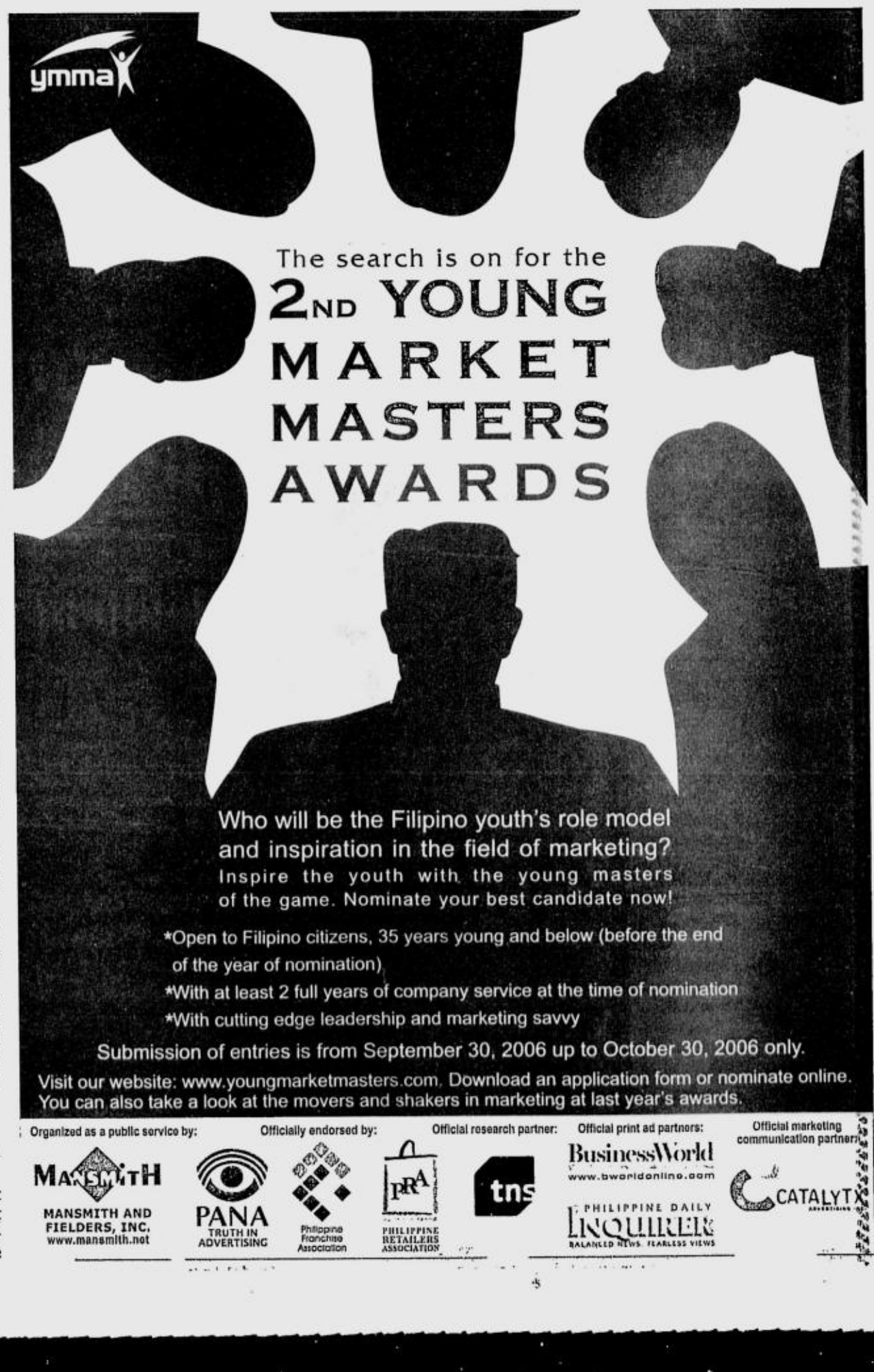
More explosive than Garci

This is the issue the government is sweeping under the rug.

The issue raised by the government that the executions are peripheral in the "all-out war" on the communist insurgency misrepresents the problem. The issue of justice is more explosive than the tapes issue.

Justice—or denial of justice—was the issue involved in the assassination of Benigno Aquino Jr. It's an issue that people—rich and poor—understand and relate to by heart.

It was the issue that ignited the revolt of the people and sent them to the streets in overpowering numbers to eventually bring down the Marcos dictatorship—not the issue of the legitimacy of the Sept. 21, 1972, declaration of martial law.



Boracay resort owners assail GMA order in rally

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

BORACAY ISLAND—SOME 1,500 residents, business owners and their employees staged a rally here on Saturday against President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation declaring more than half of the island "alienable and disposable" and subject to public auction.

To the beat of Ati-Atihan drums and lyres, the protesters assembled at the beach front near Boat Station 1 and marched to the plaza in Barangay Balabag where a two-hour rally was held.

"This is our land!" the speakers repeatedly shouted as they called for the revocation of Presidential Proclamation No. 1064 that Ms Arroyo issued on May 22.

The protesters signed a petition against the proclamation and lit torches at the culmination of the rally.

The proclamation categorized 628.96 hectares or 60.94 percent of the 1,032-hectare island as alienable and disposable. The remaining areas were classified as forest reserves, protected areas and swamps.

Lands classified as alienable and disposable will be disposed of either through direct sale or public auction.

The protesters were led by resort and business owners belonging to the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI) and were joined by Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores and Mayor Ciceron Cawaling of Malay town. Several expatriates who operate businesses here joined the rally.

"The existing owners should be granted titles and not required to bid for our own lands," Briton Robin Doughty, 67, who owns a 20-room resort along with his Filipino wife, told the INQUIRER.

Miraflores said the President should intervene by instructing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources not to proceed with the disposition of the lands through bidding.

"We will not permit the DENR and national agencies to grab our land," Miraflores said in a speech during the rally.

The resort owners and claimants of properties on this popular island-resort have petitioned the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the implementation of the proclamation and to declare it "null and void."

Named respondents were Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, the DENR regional technical director for lands and the provincial environment and resources officer (Penro) of Aklan where Boracay is located.

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SC tells DENR: Justify Boracay order

From page A1

have asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the proclamation, which was issued in May.

The residents pointed out the proclamation was issued even while there was a pending case before the high court on whether Boracay residents could apply for land titles.

It was the government that appealed the case to the high tribunal after losing in the regional trial court and the Court of Appeals.

"What they could not get through the courts, they are trying to grab through an executive order," Sacay said.

"This is our land and we will fight for it. For if Boracay is agricultural, then it belongs to the farmers. If forest, lumber yards will be established. (It's) good-bye tourism," he said.

Sacay appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to recall the order.

Purpose of reclassification

Then Environment Secretary Mike Defensor had told Boracay residents that the purpose of the reclassification was to enable the government "to dispose [of] and alienate" 628.96 hectares of land classified as agricultural.

The other 400 ha of "forest land" is considered inalienable.

But in their petition for a TRO, the Boracay residents said PP 1064—even if its implementing rules and regulation have yet to be released—was already "causing a chilling effect" on the island's tourism industry.

"The impending implementation of (PP 1064), unless immediately restrained, already paralyzes important business decisions of petitioners ... whether to continue their tourist operations, maintain or renovate, expand or move out of Boracay," the petition said.

It said pending negotiations for the sale, mortgage, loans, leases and other transactions involving properties on the island "are put to a halt and left without development and direction except backward—from a profitable tourist industry to agricultural farming and lumber business."

"The implementation of (PP 1064) will destroy the tourism industry in Boracay, classified almost 20 years ago as a tourist zone and marine reserve, to which classification petitioners, investors and landowners and the country have invested billions to make Boracay the prime tourist destination in Asia and to which classification they have acquired vested rights," the petition said.

It said prospective major investors, financiers and buyers would shy away from Boracay to the irreparable injury of petitioners and the nation unless the Supreme Court immediately issued a TRO.

Marcos decree

The problem of Boracay residents began in 1997 when the government stopped the processing of applications for surveys and the approval of survey plans for titling purposes.

The government claimed that a decree of then President Ferdinand Marcos declaring the island a tourist zone and marine reserve had made it government property "not subject to (the residents') prior vested right."

A group of residents appealed to the Kalibo Regional Trial Court, which ruled in their favor on July 19, 1999, and declared the "rights of the petitioners and those similarly situated to acquire title to their lands in the manner herein prescribed, and to have their lands surveyed and the survey plans approved."

The DENR went to the Court of Appeals but again lost its case.

In a ruling on Dec. 9, 2004, the appellate court said the residents "cannot just be prejudiced by a declaration that the land they have occupied since time immemorial is part of a forest reserve."

The government appealed its case to the Supreme Court. While the tribunal had yet to issue a ruling, Malacañang came out with PP 1064.

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Soldiers detain 3 leftists for 20 hours

By Tonette Orejas, *Inquirer Central Luzon*
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THREE ANAKPAWIS MEMBERS IN Bulacan who were taken by Army soldiers without arrest warrants and held for 20 hours were released on Saturday night, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said, citing belated reports from relatives.

Francisco Nicodemus, Emmanuel Maceda and Sonny Rodante Cabague declined to talk on their ordeal. They said they were "very tired" from the interrogation.

Initial stories they told their relatives showed that Army soldiers grilled them about the presence of the communist New People's Army in their village, Barangay Sto. Rosario, in the City of Malolos.

Nine armed men, mostly in plain clothes, seized them in their houses at Sitio Sabitan at past 10 p.m.

They were the first victims of illegal arrest and detention under the stint of Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, successor of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan at the 7th Infantry Division, according to Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

"The reign of terror has resumed," Corpuz earlier said.

Gomez, who was in Bohol, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he was having the incident checked before giving any statement.

Lt. Col. Rogelio Boac, outgoing chief of the Army's Task Force Malolos, said not one of his detachments in the city reported the arrest, detention or release of the three men.

Bulacan provincial police director Senior Supt. Michael Fokno said the incident had not been reported to the city police.

The relatives said the three were first taken to the Army detachment in Desta Subdivision, also in Sto. Rosario, and moved on Saturday to another Army detachment in the neighboring Barangay Sevilla.

Corpuz said Gomez was "applying the same Palparan pattern."

In Quezon, Bayan Muna coordinator Marco Ferdinand was allegedly abducted by suspected Army soldiers from his house in Mauban town Tuesday, according to Doris Cuario, secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog.

Southern Luzon Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parayno denied the allegation. He said Ferdinand was a suspected NPA rebel, who disappeared because of a squabble with his brother-in-law, Edgar Galicia.

He said Ferdinand first abducted Galicia who later escaped.

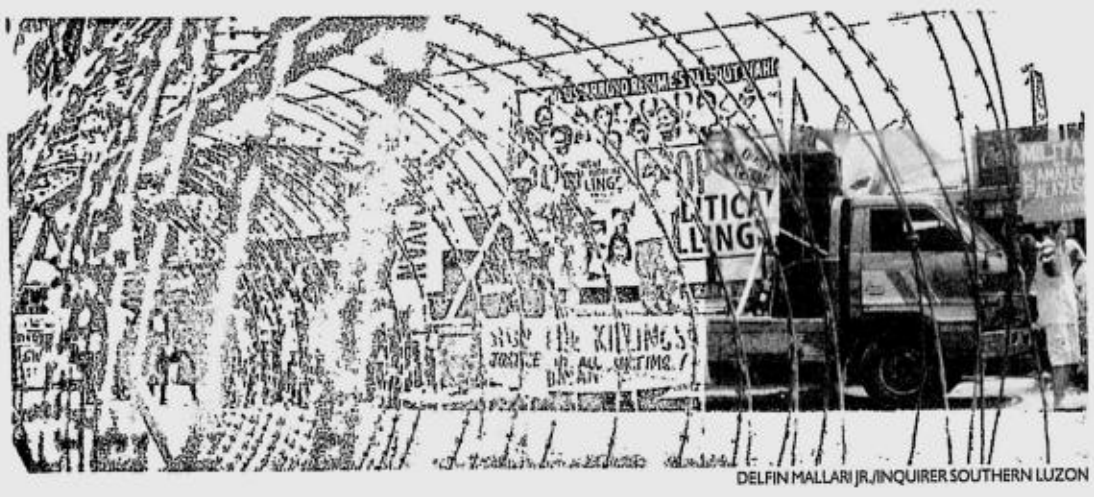
"Galicia sought the help of a village official who eventually asked military assistance. Based on our latest report, Marco was hiding somewhere in Mauban," Parayno stressed.

In Lucena City, the fiery speeches of activists in a protest rally Sunday noon in front of the Southern Luzon Command headquarters at Camp Nakar were drowned by blaring disco music played from inside the camp.

"The blaring music indicates that the state fascist forces are all in fiesta mood. They are celebrating their continuous killings of leaders of progressive groups and journalists in Southern Tagalog and Bicol," Bani Cambronero, Bayan Muna-Southern Tagalog coordinator, shouted at the top of his voice.

"Quezon is one of the provinces experiencing the worst cases of political killings and human rights violations. That's why it is fitting to start our protest against political killings here," Cuario said.

The protest action marked the start of a five-day march of relatives of victims of political killings and other sectors to Manila.



DELFIN MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

MILITANT groups start their five-day "Lakbayan" in Lucena City Sunday.

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AIPO AND ASEAN MOVING TOGETHER TOWARD A SOUTHEAST ASIAN UNION

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization's Cebu Assembly is a breakthrough in region's march toward community

Dignitaries at the 27th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization in Cebu City. From left: Samdech Heng Samrin, Cambodia; Thongsing Thammavong, Lao PDR; Datuk Lim Si Cheng, Malaysia; Raul del Mar, Philippines; Jose de Venecia, Philippines; Josefina Azarcon, Philippines; Abdullah Tarmugi, Singapore; Suchon Chaleekure, Thailand; Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam; Dr. Haji Kemaludin ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd. Yassin, Brunei; Dr. Tun Shin, Myanmar.

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) and its mother-organization, ASEAN, are at last marching in step toward a "caring and sharing community."

Once just an impossible dream, one Southeast Asia is now an attainable goal. Both regional security threats and heightened global economic competition are driving the 10 ASEAN states toward closer union.

And ASEAN's architects—the Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers and the Leaders' Summit of Heads of Government—now recognize AIPO as the fountainhead of parliamentary and constituency support, which is crucial toward unifying Southeast Asia politically, economically and culturally.

Regular ASEAN-AIPO consultations

Future historians will mark 2006 as the breakthrough year for both ASEAN and AIPO—the moment when the strategic region of 550 million people and almost $900 billion in GDP began its epoch-making transformation.

The first formal consultation between ASEAN and AIPO took place this June. Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar of Malaysia—then chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee—invited Speaker Jose de Venecia of the Philippines, as AIPO President, to Kuala Lumpur for an extensive briefing on AIPO's programs and initiatives.

The agreements reached there were far-reaching. Henceforth, the AIPO President and Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee will meet regularly. The ASEAN Leaders will also receive the AIPO President at their annual Summit; AIPO in turn will invite the Summit Chairman to address its yearly Assembly.

Moving toward community

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's address to AIPO on September 11 began to fulfill the ASEAN Leaders' commitment. It set the scene for ASEAN to emerge—in Mrs. Arroyo's words—"as a community that values the common good of the region, one that truly cares for the welfare of its peoples and its environment."

The new Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, called for "greater regional cooperation and integration." And he vowed that the ASEAN leaders' sense of purpose would*not* falter: "We commit ourselves to usher the region toward one ASEAN Community."

The sense of a breakthrough achieved in regional relations pervaded the Opening Statements of AIPO's parliamentary delegations.

Community is an "imperative"

Speaker de Venecia declared that Southeast Asia's movement toward community "has become not just an ideal but an imperative." And in this movement toward unity, he added, AIPO will have a crucial role "because only AIPO can provide the parliamentary and constituency support for ASEAN's vision . . ."

De Venecia's own central role in the march toward ASEAN community elicited a glowing tribute from his colleague, Antonio Cuenco, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Philippine House of Representatives, who called de Venecia "one of the region's paramount leaders and foremost visionaries."

A guest of honor from the European Parliament, Hartmut Nassauer, expressed his institution's steadfast support for Speaker de Venecia's proposals to strengthen parliamentarism and inter-parliamentary unity "from the very beginning."

The President of the Thai Senate, the Honorable Suchon Chaleekure, saw in the ASEAN-AIPO linkage a welcome willingness by the region's executive and legislative branches to "leverage their cooperation and coordination to find a common path and to work together for the integration of the region."

A closely-integrated AIPO "should be able to provide concrete contribution to help achieve the establishment of an ASEAN Community . . ." added the Honorable Agung Laksono, Speaker of Indonesia's House of Representatives.

Reflecting the views of ASEAN's peoples

Speaker Abdullah Tarmugi of the Singapore Parliament noted that the ASEAN-AIPO platform "dovetails with ASEAN's broader goals of diminishing the distance between citizens and officials," and that AIPO can genuinely "reflect the views and aspirations of ASEAN citizens."

The other heads of delegation—the Honorable Thongsing Thammavong, Speaker of the Lao PDR National Assembly; the Honorable Nguyen Phu Trong, President of the Vietnam National Assembly; the Honorable YB Datuk Lim Si Cheng, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Malaysia; *Samdech* Heng Samrin, Speaker of the Parliament of Cambodia; and the Honorable Antonio Cuenco of the Philippine House of Representatives—all endorsed initiatives to strengthen ASEAN-AIPO links, and to align the executive and legislative branches of the Southeast Asian governments toward the common vision of building one ASEAN Community.

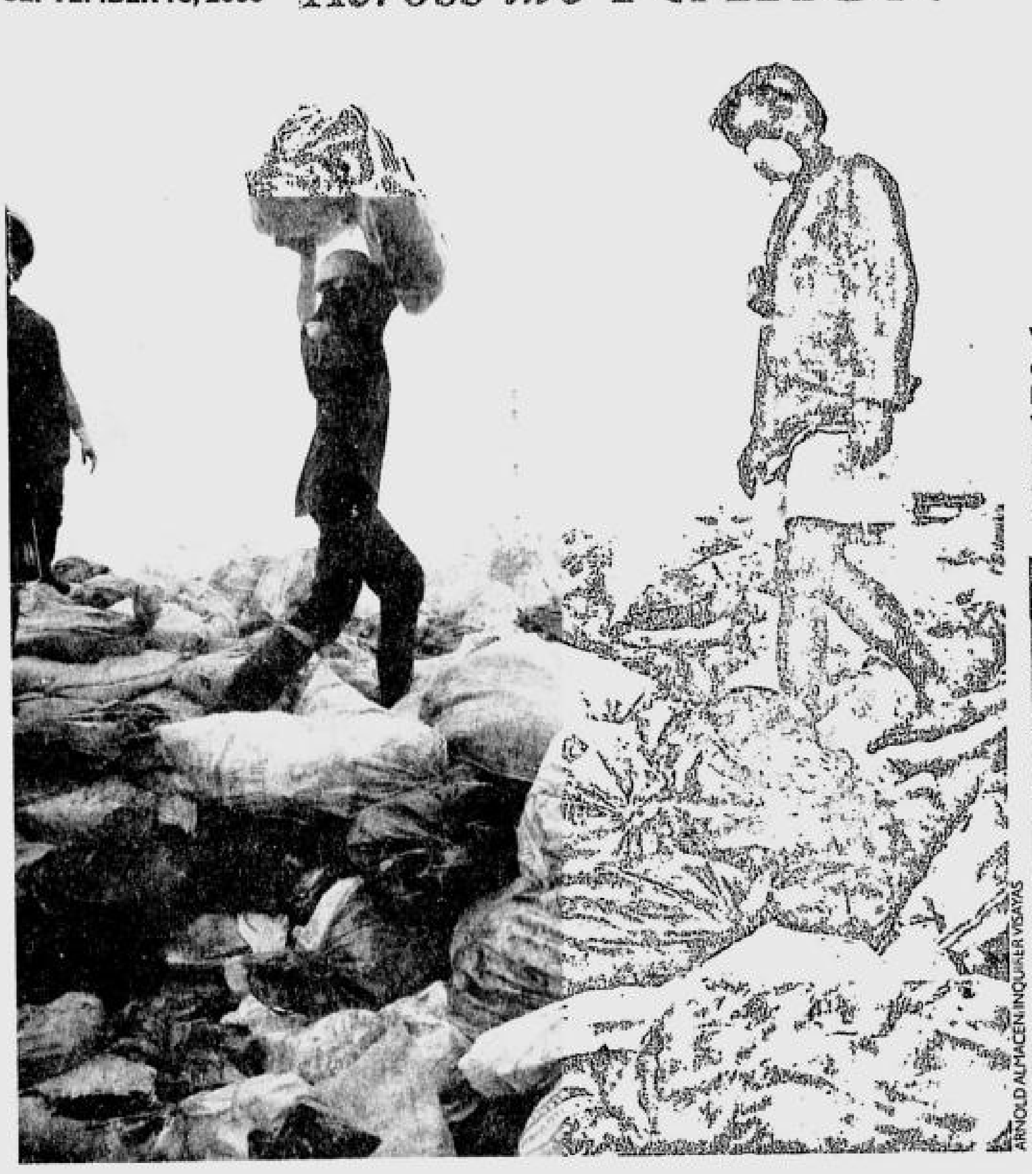
The Honorable Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN, pointed out that, in many ways, AIPO's development as an organization of 'people's representatives' has run parallel with ASEAN's own progress; and that "the contributions of ASEAN parliamentarians toward regional integration have helped shape ASEAN into a cohesive regional entity held as an example worldwide."

A common path has been laid

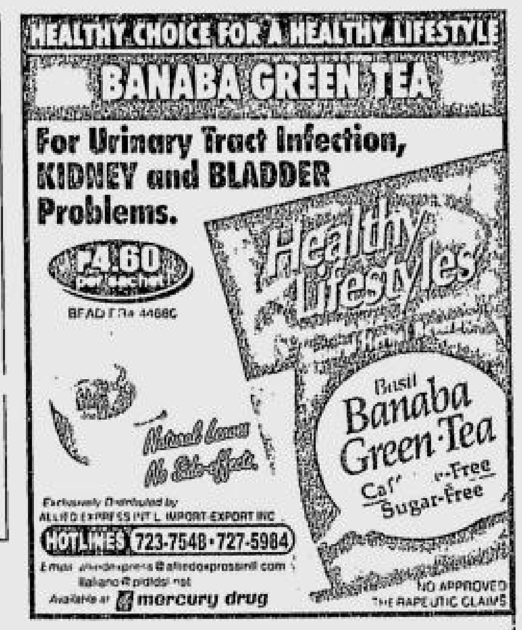
Thus a common path has been laid.

Now there is no turning back from the consensus reached at the 27th AIPO General Assembly: to move decisively toward an ASEAN community which is united politically, economically and culturally; and to move AIPO toward the next step of its evolution, which is to become an effective regional legislative institution—the core and nucleus of an eventual ASEAN Parliament.

ADVT.


ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

WORKERS load bags of oil debris onto a barge in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras Island, one of the areas hardest-hit by the oil spill.



Guimaras mayor warns of disastrous effects of no-fishing declaration

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—GUIMARAS GOV. JC RAHMAN Nava has raised concern that the no-fishing zones declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo on the waters around Guimaras and nearby islands in Western Visayas would have disastrous effects on many Guimarasnons who rely on small-scale fishing.

The ban, he warned, would affect the livelihood of at least one third of the population of Guimaras.

Guimaras (population: 150,000 to 155,000) has five municipalities, whose centers have been built near and around coastal areas. Of its 98 barangays, 54 are coastal, Nava said.

"You will be talking about one third of the population that will be affected outright by this [declaration]. That includes the fisherfolk, fish vendors, fish traders, transport sector," the governor said.

Nava said he was surprised when he read a newspaper report about the President's declaration on Friday because there was no prior consultation about the move.

Guimaras, which is directly affected by the decision, should have been consulted, he said.

"That's why we're looking into this; try to validate things. We will, if necessary, ask for reconsideration...," the governor said in a phone interview.

Nava said he would conduct a province-wide consultation among the people in the fishing industry to get their sentiments and present them to Malacañang. He started talking with concerned groups on Friday, he said.

He stressed that since there was hardly any commercial fishing activity in Guimaras, there could be some areas that should remain open to small-scale fishers despite the oil spill.

"There are areas that the moment we eliminate the source (of the spill), there's a big chance that we can easily go into some rehabilitation process. In less affected and non-affected areas, I supposed we can still normalize their [fishing] activity," he said.

The militant fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) warned that the fishing ban in Guimaras and nearby islands would result in a national fish crisis.

In a press statement, Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said fish production in the country could decrease to 240,000 metric tons yearly if the no-fishing zone was enforced in the waters off Guimaras.

Hicap said the figure represented 20 percent of the annual gross production in fisheries nationwide—commercial and municipal fisheries.

He revealed that 33 percent of the gross fisheries production in Western Visayas came from Guimaras Strait.

Hicap also criticized the President for imposing the fishing ban based on the proposal of a British marine conservation group without consulting the people of Guimaras.

"It was nothing but a super road show presentation aimed at gaining publicity points for her sagging political career here and abroad," Hicap said in a press statement.

"The declaration of a no-fish zone in Guimaras Strait and nearby fishing grounds in Region 6 or Western Visayas will kill the livelihood of more than 50,000 fishing families and will endanger the food security of more than 6 million people in the region and 17 million people of the 86 million Filipinos throughout the country. This is national massacre to the highest level," Hicap added.

6th police director in 2 years

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CAMP SATURNINO DUMLAO, NUEVA VIZCAYA—The provincial police office on Saturday got a new head, the sixth in 24 months, following the relief of the acting police director who assumed the post for just 20 days.

The move was met with strong rebuke from provincial officials who said the "whimsical" changing of police directors had been upsetting the provincial government's plans and programs in peace and order.

Gov. Luisa Cuaresma protested the sudden relief of Supt. Prudencio de la Cruz that, she said, was done without proper notice and consultation with concerned provincial officials.

"They have been relieving and assigning our [police directors] as they pleased, without giving us a little courtesy of telling us the reasons and consulting us on who would next take the post," she said, alluding to regional police officials led by Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano.

On Saturday, Soriano ordered the relief of De la Cruz and installed Senior Supt. Cesar Javier as acting police director.

De la Cruz had served as acting police director since Aug. 29, replacing relieved Senior Supt. Rogelio Damazo, the police chief since February.

Cuaresma lamented that since she became governor in July 2004, no police director had completed a two-year tenure.

"If they say that [Nueva Vizcaya] gets criticized for having a poor peace and order situation, then this system in the [Philippine National Police] is to blame," she said.

She said she and Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca had agreed to raise a formal protest against "this unabashed replacement" of police officials in Ilocos Region to the League of Governors of the Philippines.

"We have this similar complaint. We will seek the support of other governors, hoping that the PNP [national leadership] will pay attention to our plight," Cuaresma said.

Sought for comment, Soriano clarified that De la Cruz's relief was caused by his appointment as provincial director of Southern Leyte.

"I did not know that he had a pending nomination as [provincial director] before he was assigned to Nueva Vizcaya. His nomination was eventually accepted by the governor of Southern Leyte," he said.

Soriano admitted that he did not personally notify the governor about the relief of De la Cruz. But he said he tried to get in touch with her, but to no avail.

"The designation of [officers in charge] is only temporary, while we are awaiting the appointment of a permanent provincial director. There, the governor can endorse her choice," he said.

NOTICE TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.:

TERMS OF THE TENDER OFFER FOR COMMON SHARES OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.

Party Making The Tender Offer: [illegible]

Subject Company: [illegible] PCI B[illegible]

Subject Shares: The Bidder [illegible]

Tender Offer Price: [illegible]

Tender Offer Period: The Tender Offer Period shall commence [illegible] September 28, 2006 at 12:00 noon, unless extended by the Bidder [illegible]

Transaction Broker: BDO Securities [illegible] Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Application To Tender Shares: [illegible]

Acceptance of Shares: All Shares validly tendered by stockholders of record of EPCIB under this Tender Offer shall be accepted for payment by the Bidder. The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Bidder for payment on September 28, 2006 (the "Closing Date") subject to the condition that the Bidder shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Shares.

Withdrawal of Securities and Manner of Payment: The Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder of record at any time during the tender offer period by submitting a written request for the tendered Shares to the Tender Offer Agent and surrendering the original Securities In-Receipts issued by the Tender Offer Agent/Transaction Broker. The last day to withdraw tendered Shares shall be on Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 12 noon.

Conditions Precedent To Closing: All necessary corporate and regulatory approvals, including but limited to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approval shall be obtained by the Bidder prior to Closing Date.

Terms of Payment: The Consideration shall be payable as follows: ten percent (10%) on Settlement Date or on October 2, 2006; ten percent (10%) on June 2, 2007, ten percent (10%) on February 2, 2008, the remaining balance to be paid on October 2, 2008. Should any of the payment dates fall on a holiday or a non-trading day, the payment of the relevant Consideration shall be made on the next business day.

Escrow of Subject Shares: On Closing Date, the Bidder shall [illegible]

Taxes and other Expenses: [illegible]

Representation and Warranties of the Tendering Stockholder: By accepting the Tender Offer, each tendering stockholder represents and warrants to the Bidder that [illegible]

Representation and Warranties of the Bidder: The Bidder represents and warrants that the payment of the Consideration shall be made when it falls due.

Default: [illegible] the Bidder fails to pay any of the Consideration when due, and the delay continues for a period of ninety (90) days, the Bidder shall be declared in default and the tendering shareholder shall have the right to forfeit any part of the Consideration already paid by the Bidder.

Confirmation of Financial Resources: Several banks have certified that resources available to the Bidder are sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of the tender offer including the confirmation that resources available for immediate disposal are sufficient to satisfy the ten percent (10%) initial payment of the Consideration on Closing Date.

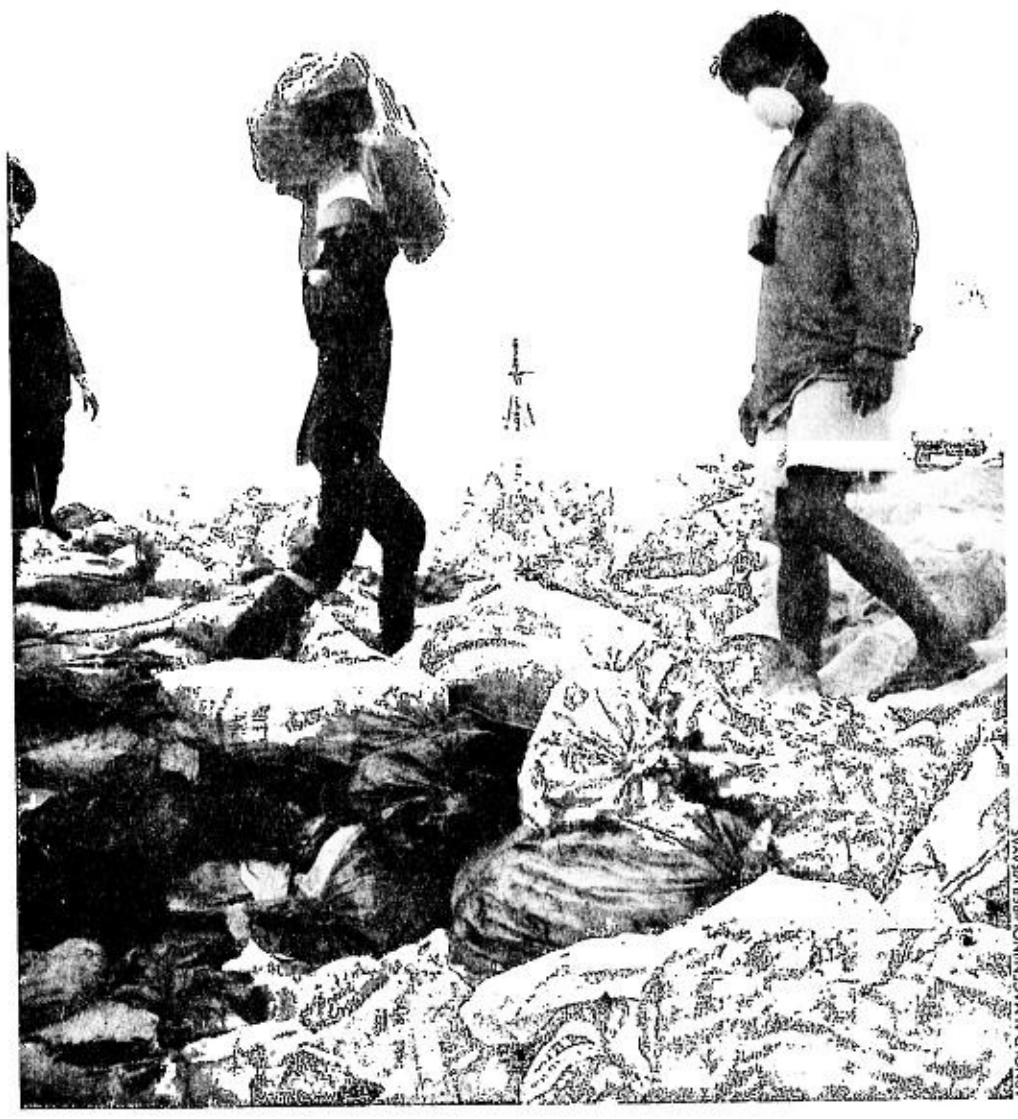
Material Changes: If any material change occurs in the information previously disclosed to the stockholders of EPCIB, the Bidders shall promptly disclose change in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the stockholders of such change.

Tender Offer Report: Further information regarding the tender offer is included in the Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1), copies of which are available at the office of the Transaction Broker. Copies of the Tender Offer Report have also been filed with EPCIB, the PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All questions relating to this Tender Offer for the Shares of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. may be directed to:

BDO Securities Corporation
11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium
No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Attention: Janet D. Anjot
Tel. No. 687-5708
Attention: Jasper M. Jimenez
Tel. No. 687-5628

BDO Capital & Investment Corporation
11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium
No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Attention: Francisco Eduardo A. Sarmiento
Tel. No. 634-6756



ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

WORKERS load bags of oil debris onto a barge in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras Island, one of the areas hardest-hit by the oil spill.

Guimaras mayor warns of disastrous effects of no-fishing declaration

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—GUIMARAS GOV. JC RAHMAN Nava has raised concern that the no-fishing zones declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo on the waters around Guimaras and nearby islands in Western Visayas would have disastrous effects on many Guimarasnons who rely on small-scale fishing.

The ban, he warned, would affect the livelihood of at least one third of the population of Guimaras.

Guimaras (population: 150,000 to 155,000) has five municipalities, whose centers have been built near and around coastal areas. Of its 98 barangays, 54 are coastal, Nava said.

"You will be talking about one third of the population that will be affected outright by this [declaration]. That includes the fisherfolk, fish vendors, fish traders, transport sector," the governor said.

Nava said he was surprised when he read a newspaper report about the President's declaration on Friday because there was no prior consultation about the move.

Guimaras, which is directly affected by the decision, should have been consulted, he said.

"That's why we're looking into this; try to validate things. We will, if necessary, ask for reconsideration...," the governor said in a phone interview.

Nava said he would conduct a province-wide consultation among the people in the fishing industry to get their sentiments and present them to Malacañang. He started talking with concerned groups on Friday, he said.

He stressed that since there was hardly any commercial fishing activity in Guimaras, there could be some areas that should remain open to small-scale fishers despite the oil spill.

"There are areas that the moment we eliminate the source (of the spill), there's a big chance that we can easily go into some rehabilitation process. In less affected and non-affected areas, I supposed we can still normalize their [fishing] activity," he said.

The militant fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) warned that the fishing ban in Guimaras and nearby islands would result in a national fish crisis.

In a press statement, Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said fish production in the country could decrease to 240,000 metric tons yearly if the no-fishing zone was enforced in the waters off Guimaras.

Hicap said the figure represented 20 percent of the annual gross production in fisheries nationwide—commercial and municipal fisheries.

He revealed that 33 percent of the gross fisheries production in Western Visayas came from Guimaras Strait.

Hicap also criticized the President for imposing the fishing ban based on the proposal of a British marine conservation group without consulting the people of Guimaras.

"It was nothing but a super road show presentation aimed at gaining publicity points for her sagging political career here and abroad," Hicap said in a press statement.

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NOTICE TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.:

Below is the amended Terms of the Tender Offer for Common Shares of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. commenced by SM Investments Corporation and its consortium. This publication is made pursuant to the dissemination requirements of the Tender Offer Rules of the Securities Regulation Code.

TERMS OF THE TENDER OFFER FOR COMMON SHARES OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.

Party Making The Tender Offers: SM Investments Corporation, in consortium with Sherman, Inc. (controlled by Multi-Realty Development Corporation (MRDC), Synrix Holdings, Inc., and Schaus Equity Investments Corp. (collectively, the "Bidder")

Subject Company: Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. ("EPCIB")

Subject Shares: The Bidder intends to acquire or tender (100% outstanding shares or common stock of EPCIB (the "Shares")

The Bidder has commenced a negotiated sale over 78,807,098 Shares (equivalent to 10.84%) owned by EBC Investments, Inc. which shall be purchased under the same terms as the Tender Offer. Additionally, the Bidder, its affiliates and related interests presently own 3.1% of the Shares. Consequently, the subject of this Tender Offer is 401,015,130 shares representing 55.16% of the Shares.

Tender Offer Price: Sixty Two Pesos (P62.00) per share or a total consideration of P26,693,390,120.00 (the "Consideration") subject to the Terms of Payment below.

Tender Offer Period: The Tender Offer Period shall commence on August 31, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. and end on September 28, 2006 at 12:00 noon, unless extended by the Bidder upon approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). The following is the schedule of the tender offer for the Shares:

August 31, 2006 (9:30 a.m.)	Commencement of the Tender Offer Period
September 28, 2006 (12 noon)	End of Tender Offer Period
September 29, 2006	Acceptance of Shares Tendered and Report on Results
October 2, 2006	Cross Date (Sale of Shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange (the "PSE"))
	Settlement Date (Payment of 10% of the Consideration and delivery of Promissory Note, as defined below)

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Bidder must be received by the Transaction Broker in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of September 28, 2006. Shares received after the end of the Tender Offer Period shall be rejected. The Transaction Broker will act as custodian for such Shares until such time that the transfer of the Shares to the Bidder is completed or the tendered Shares are withdrawn in accordance with the Terms of the Tender Offer.

Transaction Broker: BDO Securities Corporation, 8th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Application To Tender Shares: Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by securing an Application to Tender Shares form (the "Application Form") from the Transaction Broker and submitting a duly accomplished Application Form together with the following documentary requirements to the Transaction Broker:

a) For certificated Shares, the original stock certificates of EPCIB duly endorsed;

b) For corporate and juridical stockholders, resolutions adopted by the stockholder's board of directors or its governing body authorizing the stockholder to tender and sell Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer, designating signatories for the purpose and indicating the specimen signatures of these signatories. The resolutions shall be embodied in a certification under oath by the corporate secretary of the tendering stockholder, in substantially the same form as that attached to the Application Form;

c) For individual stockholders, photocopies of two (2) valid identification cards containing the tendering stockholder's photograph and specimen signature and if the tendering stockholder is acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized special power of attorney, in substantially the same form as that attached to the Application Form.

To ensure that the Transaction Broker receives the Shares in scripless form within the Tender Offer Period, the tendering stockholders should submit the required documents:

a) For certificated Shares, to the Transaction Broker, at least 5 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period, or on or before September 22, 2006, to allow for lodgment of the shares with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") before the end of the Tender Offer Period; or

b) For shares lodged with their PCD participant, to their stockbroker or custodian (the "PCD Participant"), at least 5 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period or, on or before September 25, 2006, to allow for the electronic transfer of the Shares to the Transaction Broker before the end of the Tender Offer Period.

In addition to the documentary requirements above, tendering stockholders whose Shares are lodged with the PCD should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their Shares to the Transaction Broker.

Acceptance of Shares: All Shares validly tendered by stockholders of record of EPCIB under this Tender Offer shall be accepted for payment by the Bidder. The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Bidder for payment on September 28, 2006 (the "Closing Date") subject to the condition that the Bidder shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Shares.

Withdrawal of Securities and Manner of Payment: The Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder of record at any time during the tender offer period by submitting a written request for the tendered Shares to the Tender Offer Agent and surrendering the original Securities In Escrow Receipt issued by the Tender Offer Agent/Transaction Broker. The last day to withdraw tendered Shares shall be on Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 12 noon.

Shares shall be returned in the same form it was received, to the PCD Participant (if previously lodged with the PDC Participant) or to the tendering stockholder (if previously certificated), within ten (10) trading days from the end of the Tender Offer Period. The cost of returning the Shares shall be borne by the stockholder making the withdrawal.

Conditions Precedent To Closing: All necessary corporate and regulatory approvals, including but not limited to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approval shall be obtained by the Bidder prior to Closing Date.

Terms of Payment: The Consideration shall be payable as follows: ten percent (10%) on Settlement Date or on October 2, 2006; ten percent (10%) on June 2, 2007; ten percent (10%) on February 2, 2008; the remaining balance to be paid on October 2, 2008. Should any of the payment dates fall on a holiday or a non-trading day, the payment of the relevant Consideration shall be made on the next business day.

The Bidder shall make the check for the 10% initial payment payable to either (i) each selling broker for its tendering clients or; (ii) the tendering shareholders that have delivered certificated shares or scripless shares directly to the Transaction Broker;

b) deliver the promissory notes executed by the Bidder (the "Promissory Note") for the balance of the Consideration in favor of, either (i) each selling broker for its tendering clients or, (ii) the tendering shareholders that have delivered certificated shares or scripless shares directly to the Transaction Broker, and

c) make available a copy of the executed Escrow Agreement in accordance with the terms outlined below.

Checks for the initial payment and Promissory Notes shall be available for pick-up at the Transaction Broker's office listed below beginning October 2, 2006 and up to November 3, 2006. Thereafter, checks and promissory notes shall be mailed or delivered to the stockholders, at their own risk, to their registered address indicated in the Application Form.

In all cases, payment to tendering shareholders will be subject to deduction and withholding for stock transaction tax, broker's selling commission and other customary charges, all of which shall be for the account of the tendering shareholder.

For subsequent payments of the Consideration, the Transaction Broker shall make checks available for pick-up to the payee of the Promissory Note at the Transaction Broker's office beginning on the relevant payment date and until 30 days thereafter. After the expiry of 30 days, the checks shall be mailed or delivered to the payees, at their own risk, to their registered address.

Shareholders that participate in the Tender Offer through their brokers should claim payments from such brokers and not from the Bidder or the Transaction Broker.

Escrow of Subject Shares: On Closing Date, the Bidder shall put in escrow with an identified escrow agent (the "Escrow Agent") either of the following (the "Assets in Escrow"):

i) the Subject Shares, or

ii) government securities equivalent in value to the outstanding unpaid balance of the Consideration, or

iii) listed shares of stocks and/or fixed income securities issued by private corporations ("marketable securities") with a market value, based on the average price for the last 30 days, equivalent to 125% of the outstanding unpaid balance of the Consideration, or

iv) any combination of the above.

The Bidder may replace the Assets in Escrow at any time provided that the aforesaid collateral valuation requirements are met.

The Escrow Agent shall release the Assets in Escrow to the Bidder upon full payment of the Consideration.

Taxes and other Expenses: The tendering stockholder shall shoulder all taxes, expenses and fees customarily charged to sellers at the PSE.

The Bidder shall shoulder and pay all taxes, expenses and fees customarily charged to buyers at the PSE.

Representation and Warranties of the Tendering Stockholder: By accepting the Tender Offer, each tendering stockholder represents and warrants to the Bidder that:

i) The tendered Shares have been validly issued, fully paid and are non-assessable;

ii) The tendering stockholder is the registered and absolute legal and beneficial owner of, and has good and marketable title to, the tendered Shares, and

iii) On the Cross Date, the Bidder will obtain full and valid title to the tendered Shares, free and clear from any warrants, interests, options, liens, claims and encumbrances and will be able to freely and fully exercise all rights and privileges arising from ownership of such tendered Shares, including but not limited to the right to vote and receive dividends.

Representation and Warranties of the Bidder: The Bidder hereby represents and warrants that the payment of the Consideration shall be made when it falls due.

Default: In the event the Bidder fails to pay any of the Consideration when due, and the delay continues for a period of ninety (90) days, the Bidder shall be declared in default and the tendering shareholder shall have the right to forfeit any part of the Consideration already paid by the Bidder.

In the event of default, the Escrow Agent, upon notice by the any of the tendering shareholder, shall cause the delivery of the Assets in Escrow to the Transaction Broker of the Tender Offer or to any security broker to be designated by the tendering shareholder. The Transaction Broker or such designated securities broker shall sell all or a portion of such Assets in Escrow to satisfy the amount of the Consideration falling due. For this purpose, any and all costs and expenses for this transaction shall be for the account of the Bidder.

Confirmation of Financial Resources: Several banks have certified that resources available to the Bidder are sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of the tender offer, including the confirmation that resources available for immediate disposal are sufficient to satisfy the ten percent (10%) initial payment of the Consideration on Closing Date.

Material Changes: If any material change occurs in the information previously disclosed to the stockholders of EPCIB, the Bidder shall promptly disclose change in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the stockholders of such change.

Tender Offer Reports: Further information regarding the tender offer is included in the Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1), copies of which are available at the office of the Transaction Broker. Copies of the Tender Offer Report have been filed with EPCIB, the PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Attention: Janet D. Amora
Tel. No. 637-3708
Attention: Jasper M. Jimenez
Tel. No. 687-5628

BDO Capital & Investment Corporation
11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium
No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Attention: Francisco Eduardo A. Sampedro
Tel. No. 633-6756

MILF calls on Muslims, 'lumad' to unite to defend 'homeland'

COTABATO CITY—MORO ISLAMIC Liberation Front (MILF) chair Murad Ebrahim has called on his fellow Muslims and members of the indigenous communities to stand up together and defend their "homeland."

Murad issued the call following last week's standoff in the peace negotiations because of the ancestral domain issue.

"In our 30 years of struggle, we have already experienced so much hardships and sufferings. As regards our homeland, only the mountains for the non-Islamized natives and the marshes are left to us (Moro). So, we should stand united in defending our homeland," Murad said during a meeting with MILF supporters and lumad leaders in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao on Friday.

No malice

Mohaqher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said Murad's statement has no malice.

The MILF has no intention of declaring war even though the issue on territory remained unresolved, he said.

Murad was simply stating the fact that the Moro and the indigenous peoples have already lost their possessions to settlers, he explained.

The first batch of Christian settlers from the Visayas and Luzon arrived in Mindanao in 1912.

They were immediately given tracts of land by the Americans, who were then running the Philippine government.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said in a paper that the migration from Luzon and the Visayas "made the once dominant Moro population into a minority and marginalized them."

Quevedo, citing sources, said that in 1913, the estimated Moro population of Mindanao was 324,816 or 76 percent of the island's total population while there were 193,882 non-Moros.

He said 26 years later, the Moro population had gone down to 34 percent.

By 1990, Quevedo said it plunged to 19 percent of the total Mindanao population of more than 14 million.

No more land

"We will just protect our rights because we have no more land left," Iqbal said.

Murad said one of solutions to the Bangsamoro rebellion and the problem of the indigenous people is the return of their ancestral domain.

"When we entered into peace negotiations with Manila, we asserted that part of the solution to our problem in Mindanao is the restitution of our ancestral domain to the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity," he said.

Murad said the territory of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity may automatically include all areas in Mindanao that are predominantly populated by the Muslims.

"Christians will be entitled to freedom of choice whether or not they opt to join the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity," he said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

MILITANT groups hold a protest at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City to condemn the killing of Bayan Bohol chair Victor Olayvar. RAFFY LERMA

Bohol model cited for insurgency defeat

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CARMEN, BOHOL—AT LEAST 30 former members of the New People's Army (NPA) based in Bohol have surrendered since June last year, proof that the insurgency in the province is going down, a military official said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Cardozo Luna, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command (Centcom), said the government's counterinsurgency program has been successful in Bohol, citing around 90 rebel returnees from 1998 until June this year, who are now actively supporting government programs.

"We saw how it is very successful in Bohol. It is a template that we are now currently replicating not just in Central Visayas but in the whole country. This is what we call the Bohol experience," Luna told the INQUIRER.

Luna along with other military officials visited the 302nd Infantry Brigade based in Barangay Katipunan, Carmen town, where the rebel returnees presented their testimonials during the province's celebration of the Peace Month.

Secretary Jesus Dureza and other members of the Office of the Presidential Assistance for Peace Process (Opap) were also there to grace the activity.

Col. Arthur Tabaquero, commanding officer of the 302nd brigade, in a separate interview said most of the former rebels had been living in the 302nd IB's 47-hectare military reserve while others have returned to their respective communities.

Livelihood programs

Tabaquero said the rebel returnees have been given livelihood programs, housing projects and scholarship grants for their children through their cooperatives.

Francisco Payot, 46, and a former guerrilla leader, yesterday told the INQUIRER that he surrendered to the government in October 2004 after six years with the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Payot, known in the underground movement as Ka Amado or Ka Anselmo, said he left the movement after he got tired of the "false promises" as well as the "terrorist activities" advocated by CPP-NPA.

"I joined them on the promise that our lives would be better. But as I went through all the years, all the idealism I espoused with the party proved to be false. Now that I am with the government, I realized I should not have allowed myself to be used by false ideology. Now, I could say I am free," he said.

Payot now heads the Rajah Soliman cooperative based in the military reserve of the 302nd IB.

A father of two children, Payot said he was apprehensive of his security because the NPA had labeled him a traitor.

"It's always the policy of the movement that once you get out without informing them formally, you are considered a traitor. I do have fears but nothing compares to the fears I had when I was in the movement—like being caught in an encounter and not [seeing] my family again," he said.

Payot said he took the opportunity of leaving the CPP-NPA when he was granted a two-week vacation to be with his family. "It was at that time that I had to decide fast and surrender for the sake of my family and myself," he added.

Difficult life

A female high-ranking CPP leader in Bohol who refused to be identified for fear that her family would be harmed is the latest rebel who surrendered to the government.

Amie (not her real name) said she was lucky that the military took her under their custody after she left the rebel movement in June this year.

A mother of five children and a rebel for six years, Amie said her life in the rural areas as an organizer was very hard. "I realized I made a mistake when I joined them. They don't believe in God and the way of life they want us to lead was contrary to my beliefs as a Catholic as well as a Boholana. I don't conform to many of their ways so when I had the opportunity to get out, I just grabbed it. Even if I fear for my family because they might be harmed, I am happy that I went out and the military is helping us," she said.

Luna said the military was able to neutralize at least three of the four communist guerrilla fronts in Bohol.

He said only the front committee headed by Domingo Samuya, also known as Ka Tiloy, operates in Bohol but its strength has been reduced to 30 armed men.

Inspiring success

"When I was the brigade commander in the 302nd brigade in 2001 to 2002, there were fronts. Now, the insurgents had been reduced dramatically. The rebels are no longer welcome in Bohol," he said.

Dureza said Bohol has served as a model in the implementation of the government's rebel programs since it has the most number of rebel returnees in the past eight years.

"The success story in Bohol is very inspiring. The local government unit is taking the lead and we hope others would follow," he said.

Dureza said they hoped to bring Bohol's "success story to other parts of the country especially in Bicol."

In his speech, Dureza assured the rebel returnees that the government will reformulate the rebel programs, such as increase its funding and incorporate other social integration programs.

Dureza also stressed that the government remains open to peace negotiations despite its all-out-war policy against the insurgency. At the moment, however, he said there is not enough effort on the part of the CPP-NPA that would prompt the resumption of the peace talks.

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Dumaguete folk call for end to 'tide of deaths'

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—SOME 3,000 people marched early Saturday on Perdices Street here to join the growing clamor for the government to reverse what they called the "tide of death" affecting journalists, church workers and community leaders.

The activity, led by members of the Dumaguete Press Club and the Silliman University Peace Resource Center, kicked off the celebrations of Press Freedom Week and Peace Week in the city.

The participants signed a statement condemning the "ineptitude of the authorities in ending the killings and demanded the right and security to speak freely."

The statement, read during a ceremony following the Freedom Walk, asserted that the freedom to express was not only a basic human right but also a privilege that served to correct the wrongs of society and shape the culture of peace.

"This nation cannot call itself civilized when it turns a blind eye and deaf ear to the plight of its people, who wish to speak truth, to injustice and candor to wrong," it said.

The Philippines has been labeled the most dangerous country in the world for journalists, next only to Iraq. It has also suffered the loss of many church workers and community leaders who have spoken out against wrongdoings in the country, the statement said.

More than 80 journalists have been killed since democracy was restored in the Philippines in 1986 and 50 of the murders took place during the Arroyo administration, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

"The pattern indicates that the greater majority of these deaths are orchestrated from a source that enjoys immunity from the rule of law. The people are disheartened that the deaths, threats and disappearances are increasing rapidly while the course of justice and arrests are to no avail," the statement said.

To mark the week, local newspapers came out with a pooled editorial on press freedom.

Other activities lined up include a forum of journalists and broadcasters on Tuesday morning, with veteran journalist and INQUIRER columnist Juan Mercado as guest.

The forum will be broadcast live over radio stations, with dyEM-FM as the primary carrying station.

A reggae concert with the Enchi Band will be held 7 p.m. Thursday at the Quezon Park. The concert, aside from featuring original RnB (Reggae nga Binisaya) songs, will also highlight the plight of journalists and church workers in the country today through a video presentation.

Universities in Dumaguete, which are offering Mass Communication or journalism courses, have also lined up activities in support of the initiative of the Dumaguete Press Club.

DUMAGUETE journalists and members of other concerned groups march on the city's main street to kick off the celebration of Press Freedom Week. Some of them wore bulls' heads, representing threats to press freedom, which were later burned.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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ROUNDUP

Historical marker in Sorsogon

LEGAZPI CITY—The National Historical Institute (NHI) has approved the putting of a marker at the site of the Spanish shipyard on Bagatao Island in Magallanes, Sorsogon, according to local historian Rogerio Escobal. Escobal had conducted research to establish that Sitio Pansod in Barangay Behia at the southwestern part of Bagatao was the ancient village of Calaguimi where the shipyard operated and brought glory to Spanish authorities for 140 years. Historians have noted that the Bagatao shipyard, which attracted Moro attacks in 1616, produced some of the ships for the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade. Ambeth Ocampo, NHI chair, said coordination was now under way with local officials for the unveiling of the historical marker.

Gina Rodriguez, Inquirer Southern Luzon

2 cops wounded in shootout

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two policemen were wounded when suspected drug dealers seized the motorcycle and service firearm of a policeman in Cavite on Friday. Police identified the wounded lawmen as SPO1 Cornello Bugayong and PO1 Joselle Talamo, both assigned to the Dasmariñas police station. Bugayong was on his way home aboard his motorcycle when he was confronted by armed men who alighted from a jeep and a motorcycle in Barangay Anabu, Imus at around 10:30 a.m. One of the men seized the policeman's 45-cal. pistol and hit him. The attackers also grabbed his motorcycle and sped away, police said. Bugayong sought assistance from colleagues who engaged the armed men in a brief shootout at the boundary of Dasmariñas and Imus towns.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Robbers kill 2 brothers

LUCENA CITY—Armed robbers shot dead two brothers on Thursday after ransacking the house of one of the victims and taking a still undetermined amount of cash and valuables. Police identified the victims as Elpidio Ricalde, 49, and his younger brother Dionisio, 44, both of Barangay Sampaloc II in Sariaya, Quezon. Investigators said at least five unidentified men entered Elpidio's house at around 8:30 p.m. and immediately pointed their guns at the son of the victim. The robbers took $2,000 cash, assorted jewelry, mobile phones, a .45 cal. pistol and a shotgun. As the robbers were leaving, Elpidio arrived but was gunned down. Jolted by the gunfire, Dionisio, who lived nearby, rushed to the but was also shot and killed.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Labor leader shot dead

CALAMBA CITY—A union leader of JAM Liner in Laguna was killed by an unidentified assailant shortly after stepping out of the regional office of the Department of Labor and Employment in Barangay Parian here on Tuesday. City police chief Supt. Roland Bustos identified the victim as Nemesio Aquino, acting president of the JAM Liner Employees' Union-National Federation of Labor Unions (JLEU-Naflu). Aquino died at the Calamba Medical Center with two bullet wounds in the back at around 2:10 p.m. Bustos said the victim and other members of the union were about to have lunch in a nearby restaurant after attending the hearing of a case they filed before the DOLE when the assailant on board a motorcycle, shot him.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Wanted man killed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A wanted man was killed while a policeman was wounded in a shootout in Tanauan City on Saturday. Tanauan police chief Supt. Francisco Rodriguez said Nelson Alano, 22, one of the city's most wanted persons, died from several bullet wounds in the body. Wounded was PO2 Walter Mercado, assigned to the warrants section of the city police. Rodriguez said a police team went to the suspect's house in Barangay Pantay Matanda at around 1 p.m. to serve a warrant for his arrest issued by Judge Heminigildo Lacap of the Tanauan Regional Trial Court. "When the suspect sensed the policemen in the area, he tried to escape and started to shoot at my men. My policemen were forced to retaliate," Rodriguez said. Alano died on the spot while Mercado was hit in the right arm and brought to a nearby hospital.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

P. Tamaray; 72

PEDRO B. Tamaray of Pallua, Tuguegarao, Cagayan, died on Sept. 14. He is survived by wife Lilia; daughters Melody, Beng, Analiza and Valerie; sons Arnel, Paul, Anthony and Erap; sons-in-law Ronald and Romie; daughters-in-law Vilma, Alma and Carmen; and grandchildren. His remains lie at the Holy Trinity Chapel on Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment will be on Tuesday, at 8 a.m., at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Lightning kills 3 in Bohol

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—Lightning struck a hut in Barangay Triple Union, Catigbian town, about 40 km north of Tagbilaran, killing three persons and injuring three others.

A police report signed by Insp. Jovito Tampus, identified the fatalities as David Quitoriano, a native of Alegria, Catigbian; Diosdado Pacog, 46, also of Alegria and Delfin Coquilla, 64, of Baang, Catigbian.

Quitoriano and Pacog were contractual workers while Coquilla was due to retire this year. All three died on the spot.

Those treated for burns were David Olbes, 61, of Baang, Catigbian, Justico Lumuthang, 39, of Ambuan, Catigbian, and Perfecto Renoblas, 58, of Triple Union, Catigbian.

According to Ardissa Estabillo, Catigbian municipal council secretary, the victims were all government employees detailed with the Provincial Engineer's Office.

"They were resting inside a hut while taking time off from their road maintenance work when the lightning struck," Estabillo said.

After hitting the TV antenna at a neighboring house, the lightning bolt bounced off an electric meter before striking a clothesline made of stainless wire.

Portions of the clothesline stretched inside the hut where the victims were staying.

It was not immediately known whether all six were actually in contact with the clothesline, which was found already torn into pieces.

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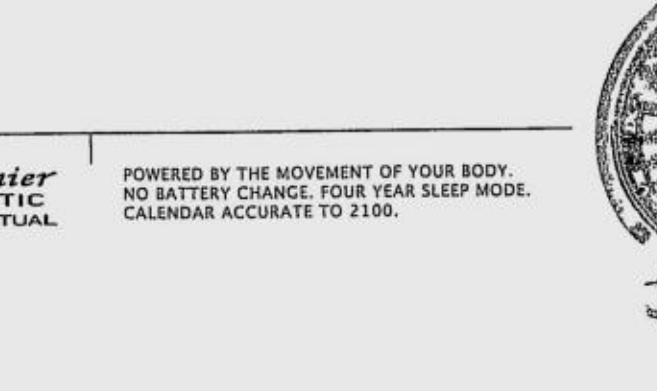

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Police, military on alert after Thai blasts

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES maintained their blue or heightened alert status throughout the country after a series of bomb blasts ripped through a popular tourist area in southern Thailand on Saturday night killing four people and wounding several others.

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, Philippine National Police Chief for Administration, said that while they were continuing to monitor for any terrorist threat in the country, the 117,000-strong PNP was still on "heightened alert."

Heightened alert means half of the police force is on standby. A full alert means all PNP personnel should report to their posts and all leaves are cancelled.

"As of now, we see no reason to upgrade our alert status to full alert. But it will depend on the situation. We are continuing with our liaison with our foreign counterparts to get information threat assessments," Razon said.

The 120,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines is also "monitoring the situation" in light of the Thailand bombings, said Public Information Office chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

But Bacarro said the AFP's National Capital Region Command (NCRComm) is on red alert while the rest of the military all over the country is on blue alert, their equivalent of the PNP's "heightened alert."

"The NCRComm's red alert is an offshoot of the President's European trip. It can be lowered to blue once President Macapagal-Arroyo arrives back in the country. We are still in the process of assessing our information," Bacarro said.

Six bombs exploded in five-minute intervals Saturday night in the southern Thailand city of Hat Yai, where scores of Malaysians, Singaporeans and Indonesians spend their weekends. Their targets—department stores, a pub and massage parlor—were crowded with tourists when the bombs went off around 9:15 p.m. Saturday. At least four people were killed while over 60 were injured. *(See story in World, Page A30)*

The coordinated attacks in Hat Yai, the main tourist hub in southern Thailand, came just hours after a government-sponsored peace rally in the nearby town of Yala and on the 21st anniversary of the founding of the GMIP—Gerakan Mujahideen Islami Pattani—separatist movement. *With an AP report*

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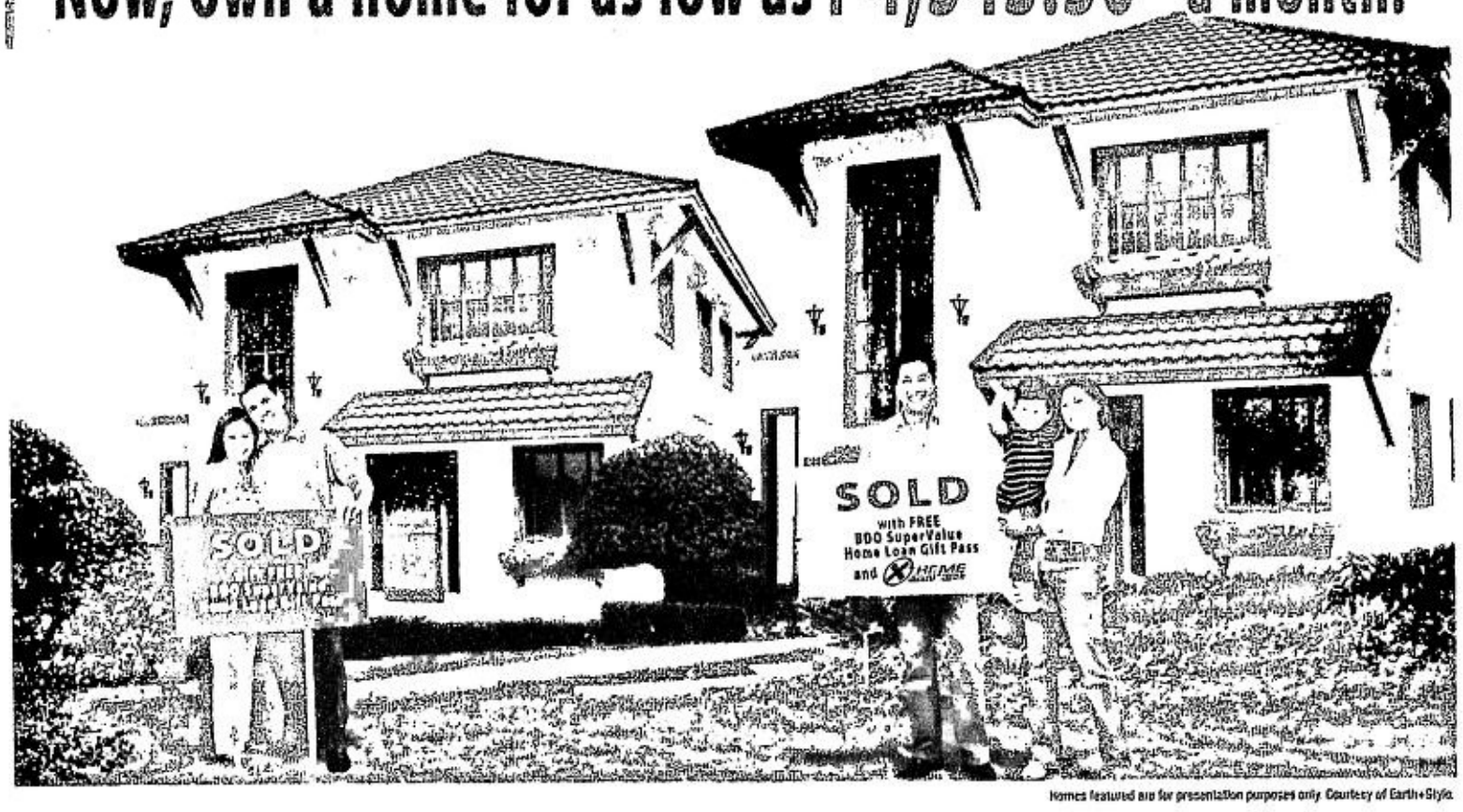

Homes featured are for presentation purposes only. Courtesy of Earth+Style.

Biktima kami ng baha.

Marvic Flora could only watch as his home and loved ones were washed away by the horrible floods of December 2004. Since that dreadful night, when Typhoon Yoyong had claimed the lives of more than 500 people, the smile that came so naturally to the face of the 12-year-old boy was lost for some time. And the same was true for most of the residents of Barangay Banglos, General Nakar, Quezon province.

Life took a dramatic turn for the better when Gawad Kalinga and SMART joined hands in 2005 with the local government and the Banglos residents to build a SMART Amazing GK Village in a safer part of the town. Aside from helping construct 100 homes, SMART also assisted the Banglos residents in developing alternative sources of livelihood.

With this in mind, SMART enlisted the help of renowned sculptor Rey Paz Contreras to teach the residents how to make wood sculpture. Within weeks, the driftwood and fallen trees that had destroyed their homes were being transformed into works of art. To date, the Banglos Sculptors – the local cooperative of wood artists – have generated substantial income that they have used to develop livelihood opportunities for other members of the community.

Today, Marvic has found his smile once more. You see it every time he carves new life into a piece of driftwood.

If you would like to know more about the work of the people of Banglos and how you can help them, please contact Arnel Rebate, chairman of the Organization of Banglos Sculptors at +63 928 4029936 or send an email to banglosart@yahoo.com.ph

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Showdown at ISM today

Parents to hold assembly to elect interim board

LITTLE MORE TO THE RIGHT
Workers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority use a truck to move a tree to a new spot on Bonifacio Drive in Port Area, Manila. The MMDA has been realigning trees in the middle of the island as part of a beautifying campaign. REM ZAMORA

By Monica Feria

THE FINAL SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE International School Manila's board of trustees and its British superintendent will take place today with the holding of a general parents assembly to install a new "interim" board.

The scheduled elections will hopefully end the leadership crisis in the 86-year-old former American school in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, which was triggered by the board's firing of ISM superintendent David Toze last Sept 4.

However, parents of ISM students like Jaime Zobel de Ayala II and Sen. Jamby Madrigal, came out in support of Toze and countered by demanding the resignation of the board. Faculty members and administrative personnel also staged a two-day work stoppage to protest the official's relief.

The 10-man board of trustees, including ISM president and financial analyst Gracita Bocanegra, eventually tendered their resignations.

One list of candidates

ISM corporate counsel, Karina H. Tanega, told the INQUIRER yesterday that there is only one list of nominees for the interim board since no group came forward to present an alternative slate.

The 10 candidates were handpicked by 12 "sustaining members," who included Ayala, Alfredo M. Velayo, Noel Lorenzana, Cesar O. Melo, Manuel Tordesillas and Aurelio R. Montinola III.

The candidates included Paul W. Jones, deputy chief of mission of the US Embassy; Fredrick M. Santos, president of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; Randy Johnson, chair of Chevron Phil.; Byoung Hyun Suh, director of the United Korean Community Association; Ernest Cu, president of SPI Technologies Inc.; Margarita Delgado, president of Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation; Swedish Ambassador Annika Markovic; Juan Miranda, director general for Central and West Asia Regional Development of the Asian Development Bank; and Aurelio Montinola III, Bank of the Philippine Islands president.

Majority of votes

To be elected, they must garner the votes of the majority of nearly 1,200 parent-stakeholders.

Legal questions, however, were raised in different blog sites yesterday, including the authority of school officials to call for an election and whether or not the intercession of the Securities and Exchange Commission was needed.

Student loses life, bag to two thieves

By DJ Yap

FOR RESISTING TWO ROBBERS WHO wanted her bag, a nursing student in Quezon City lost not only her valuables but also her life.

Diana Divina, 21, a student of Arellano University, died early yesterday at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center hours after two men stabbed her when she refused to hand over her bag, police said.

The victim was on her way home at 11 p.m. Saturday, walking on the corner of Boni Serrano and 19th Avenues in Murphy, Cubao, when two men on board a black Honda Wave blocked her path, according to a report by PO2 Leo Nino Pasco.

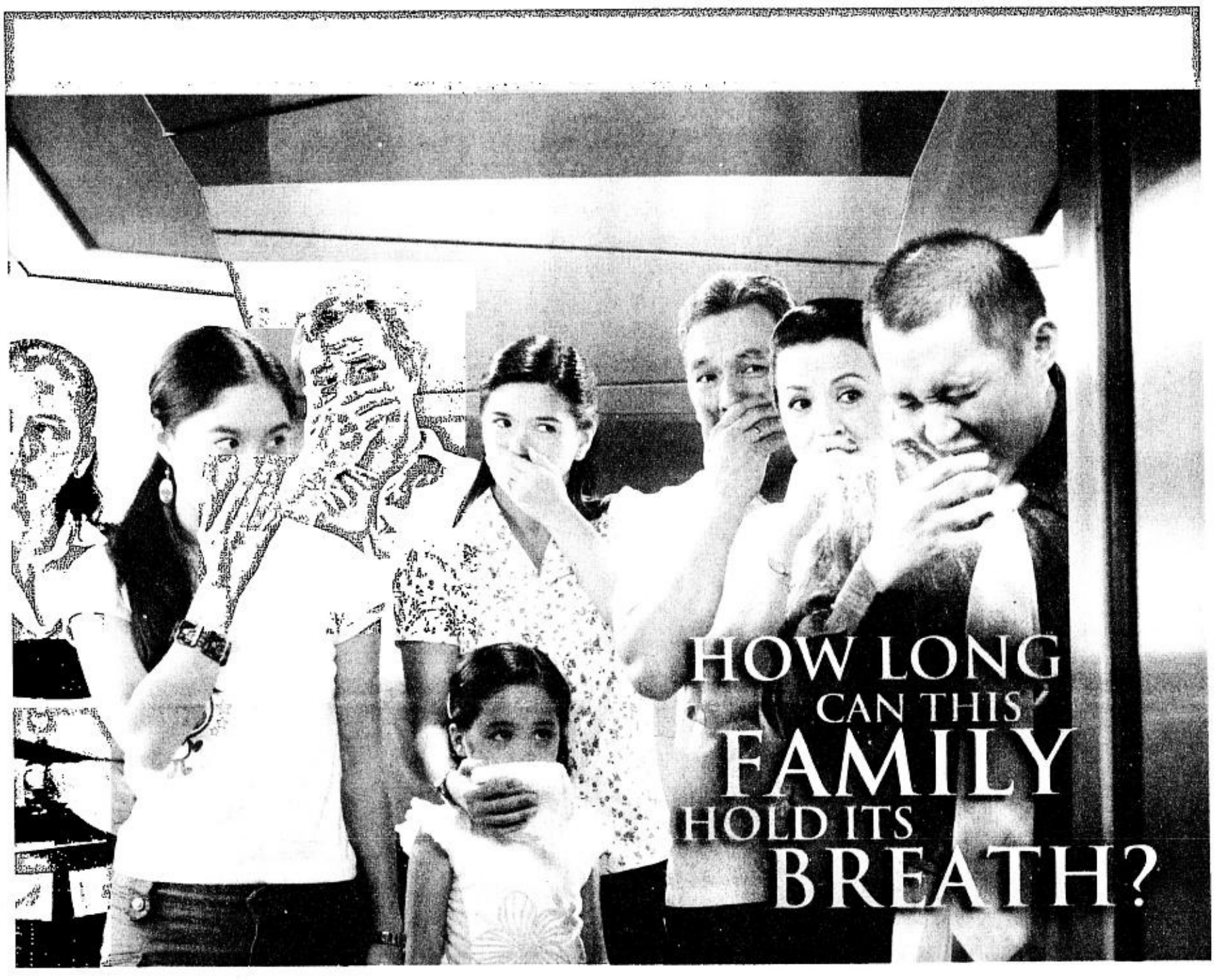
Wielding a knife, one of the suspects grabbed Divina's bag which contained her mobile phone and other personal effects, Pasco said.

Divina held on to her bag, struggled and turned to flee, until one of the suspects stabbed her repeatedly in the back before speeding away, the policeman added.

The victim was rushed to the hospital for treatment, but she died at 4:50 a.m. yesterday while undergoing surgery.

She sustained several stab wounds in the back of her torso. Her body was later transferred to the crime laboratory for autopsy.

Despite follow-up operations, no suspects have been identified in the killing.



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2. http://www.birdavianflu.com/birdfluairbornetransmission.htm
3. http://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm

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BUONG PAMILYA MAGPABAKUNA

Police release sketches of Taguig slay suspects

By Tarra V. Quismundo

POLICE YESTERDAY RELEASED sketches of three of the four men who shot dead Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's security chief on Saturday morning in Taguig City.

"We were able to put together sketches of three of the suspects. We have witnesses who described the assailants," said Taguig police chief, Supt. Alfred Corpus.

Pablo Glean, Binay's security chief and concurrent head of Makati's Business Permits and Licenses Office, was killed by four armed men as he was having coffee with friends at a convenience store on 32nd Avenue in Fort Bonifacio's commercial center, Global City.

A security guard, Benhur Bernados, also died in the incident. Socrates Galpo, Albert Gigante and Felix Santiago—Glean's fellow bikers from the Bagwis Riding Club—were wounded after they were also hit by bullets.

In a phone interview, Binay said one of the assailants, as described by witnesses, bore a close resemblance to one of the gunmen in the still unsolved slay of Edilmar Pancipane, a former barangay official who was one of his political allies.

Pancipane was gunned down by three men in Barangay Tejeros last March.

"I received information that it seems that based on the [artist's] sketch in the case of Glean, one of the suspects looked like one of the [gunmen] involved in the Pancipane killing ... This is definitely because of politics," Binay told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The sketches of Glean's suspected killers showed a man around 30 years old, of medium build or weighing around 110 lbs, with close-cropped black hair and brown complexion.

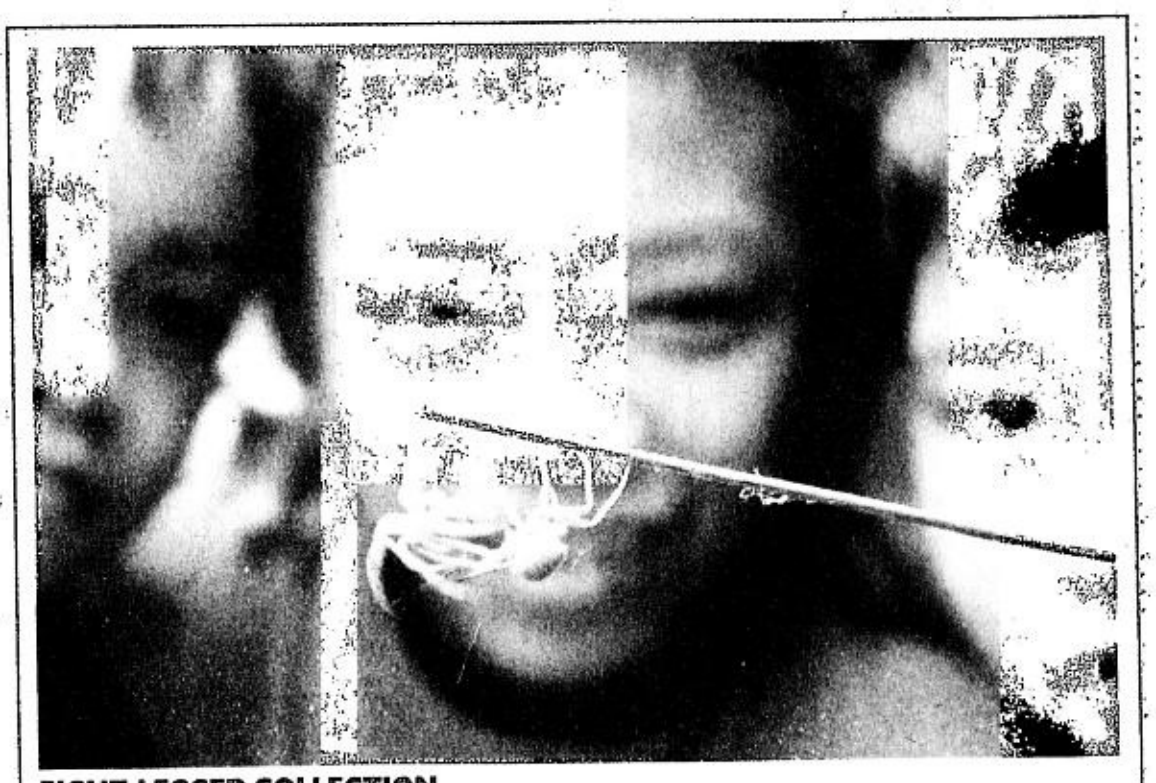
The second assailant was between 27 to 30 years old, with fair complexion and also of medium build. He was described as wearing a green polo shirt with white stripes and a pair of short pants.

The third man was of slim build but of fairer complexion than the two others, his close-cropped hair was described as curly.

All three gunmen were said to be around 5'4" in height, and carrying 45-caliber pistols—the same kind of firearms that assailants in the Pancipane slay used.

Corpus said investigators will get the statements of Glean's friends who were wounded in the incident. They will also talk to the victim's relatives, friends and colleagues, including Binay, to determine a possible motive for the slay, he added.

Binay's camp said Glean's slay was a "political killing" as it happened after the victim told the mayor about the existence of two groups: "Task Force Spider" and "Operation Phoenix," supposedly out to conduct "special operations" against opposition leaders.



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In this age of Playstations and computer video games, children in Barangay San Vicente, Quezon City, prefer to play with spiders. Many children in the area collect spiders which they buy for P5 to P20 each. JOAN BONDOC

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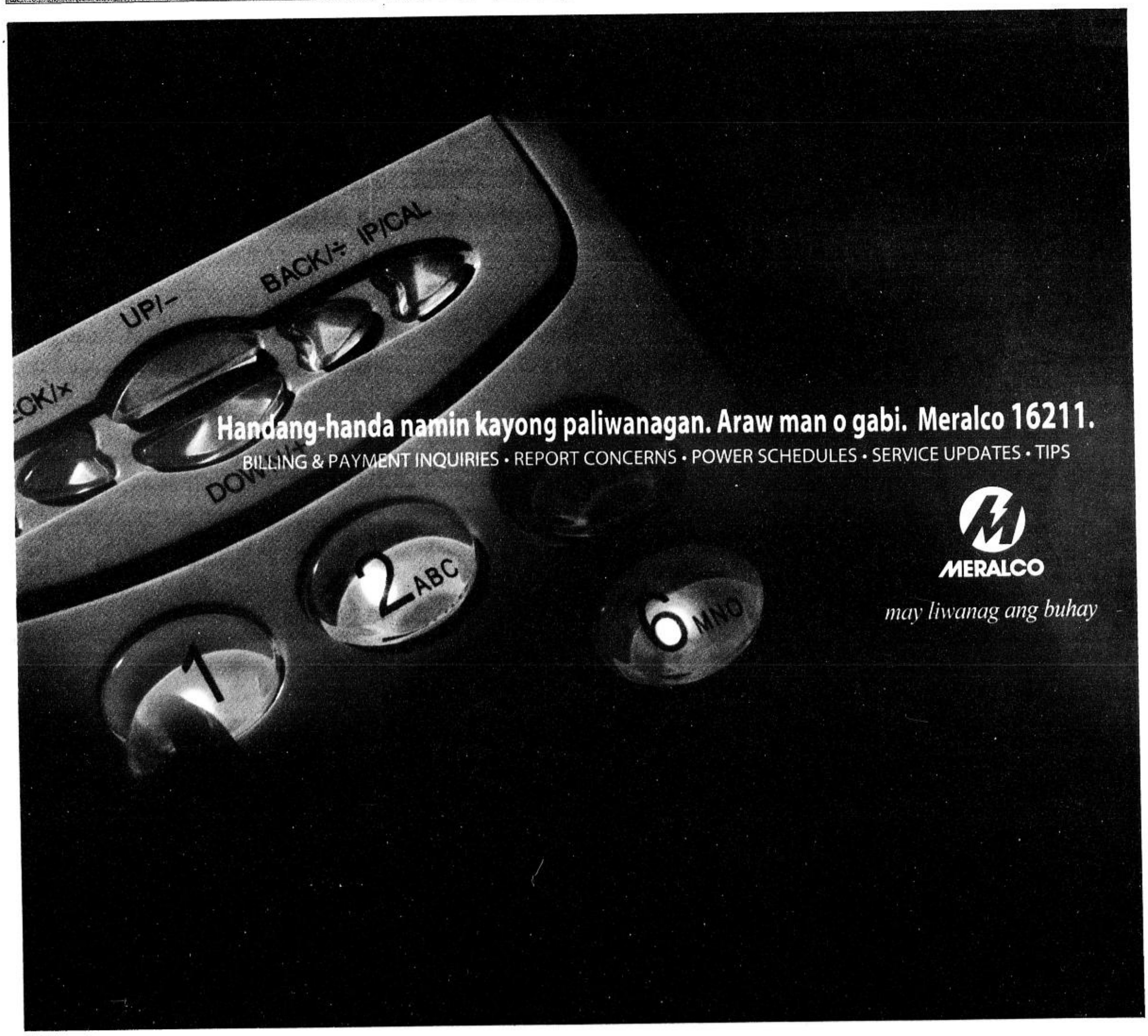

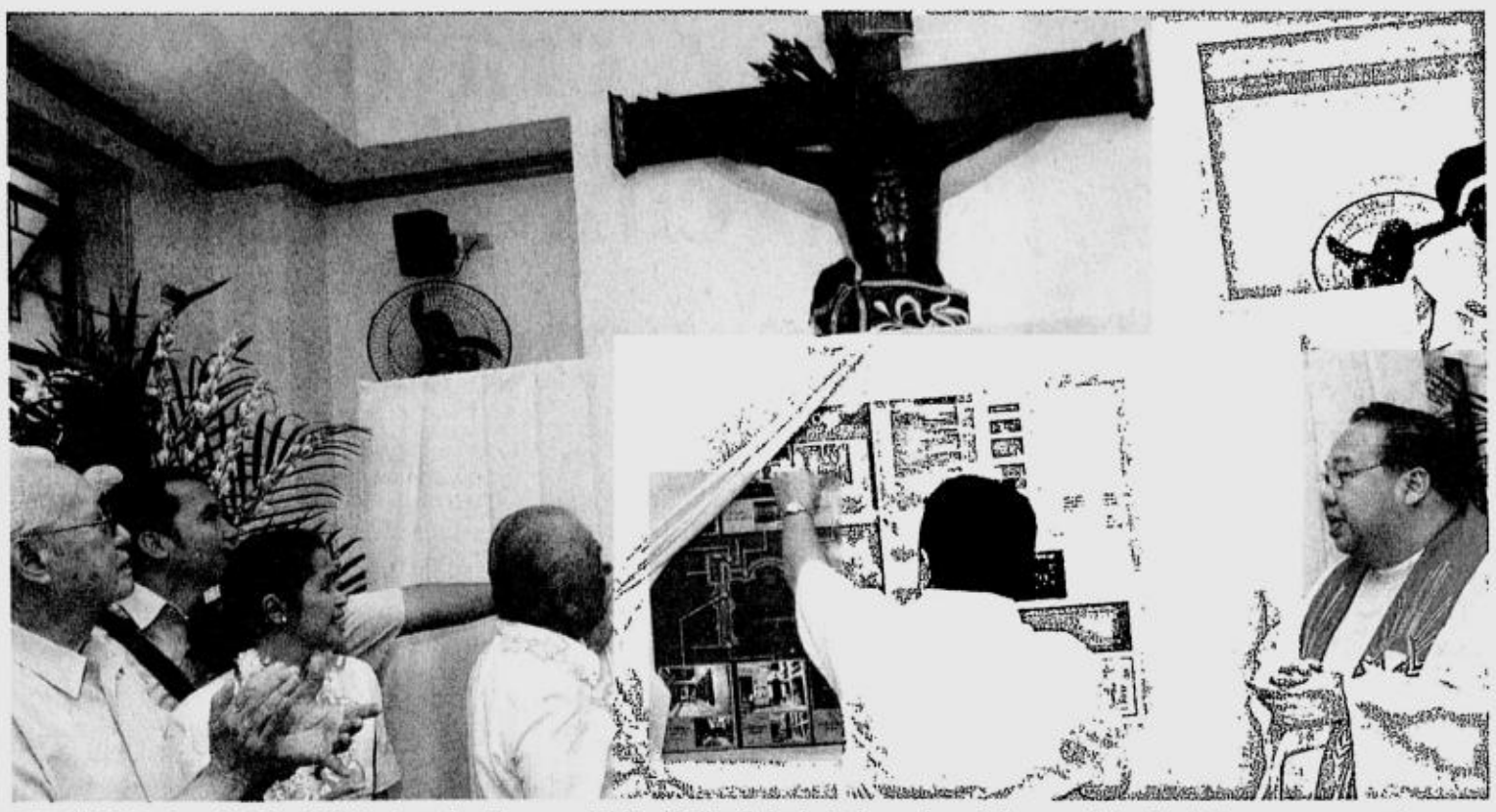

PATTERNED after the Merci Wall in Lourdes, France, a Jubilee Wall will rise in Quiapo where followers of the Black Nazarene can post messages, for a fee, as proof of their faith and devotion. Present during the launching of the project last week were (from left) Sen. Alfredo Lim, Susanna Madrigal, former Ambassador Antonio Cabangon Chua and Monsignor Josefino Ramirez. RODEL ROTONI

'Jubilee Wall' to rise in Quiapo

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOLLOWERS OF THE BLACK NAZARENE CAN now immortalize their devotion to the image on a wall near Quiapo Church.

In celebration of the statue's 400th year at the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, church officials have decided to put up a Jubilee Wall where—in exchange for a fee—devotees can inscribe their names or messages to show their faith and gratitude to the image.

In his homily last Friday, Monsignor Josefino Ramirez noted that followers of the Black Nazarene keep returning to Quiapo Church year after year. He added that though some of them may even move to far away places, they still find a way to sponsor Masses to show their devotion to the image.

"We will write on the Jubilee Wall the names of devotees who want to express their thanks for the goodness of the Black Nazarene," Ramirez said.

Mark Paz, a devotee of the Black Nazarene who helped conceptualized the project, said that having people's names on the wall would be a testament to their faith.

"A way of immortalizing your devotion is by having your name somewhere in the church," he added.

The Jubilee Wall will be put up in the Jaime Cardinal Sin building adjacent to the church. The building houses the Black Nazarene statue, the image used in the yearly procession during the January feast day.

It will cover the stretch from the entrance portal, all the way to the veneration area.

One size only

Devotees will be charged fees ranging from P400 to P12,800. The size of the letters, however, will remain the same, regardless of the fee charged, said Paz. The message or name of the devotee will be engraved in brass and placed against a red background.

Dave Guevara, a member of the organizing committee, said they hope to raise as much as P30 million from the Jubilee Wall. The money will be used for the church feeding programs as well as other projects, including the restoration of the 400-year-old statue, believed to be miraculous.

One of the devotees who believes in the miraculous powers of the Black Nazarene is Susanna Madrigal, whose late father Don Antonio Madrigal, a prominent businessman, was a long-time follower.

Madrigal said her father never failed to attend Mass at Quiapo Church, in foul or fair weather, or even if he was not feeling well. Don Antonio passed away five months ago.

"Daddy derived his strength from his faith in the Black Nazarene," she recalled.

Madrigal added that her father never failed to thank the Black Nazarene for his blessings.

Don Antonio also quietly helped people in the Quiapo community, sending them to school or giving them aid.

Former Ambassador Antonio Cabangon Chua also said that when his mother was sick and was given only six months to live, he prayed to the Black Nazarene. His mother went on to live for two more years.

The Black Nazarene arrived in the Philippines in 1606 from Spain.

DID YOU KNOW

SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH IN Intramuros, Manila, which was built in the early 1600s, is the oldest stone church in the metropolis. It is also included in the World Heritage list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The remains of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, the first Spanish governor-general of the Philippines, are in San Agustin Church. His bones, however, are mixed up with the remains of his grandsons and other unidentified persons. After British soldiers searching for treasure in 1762 defiled his tomb, along with that of other people, Augustinian fathers could not tell the bodies apart. In the end, they decided to put all the remains in a single tomb.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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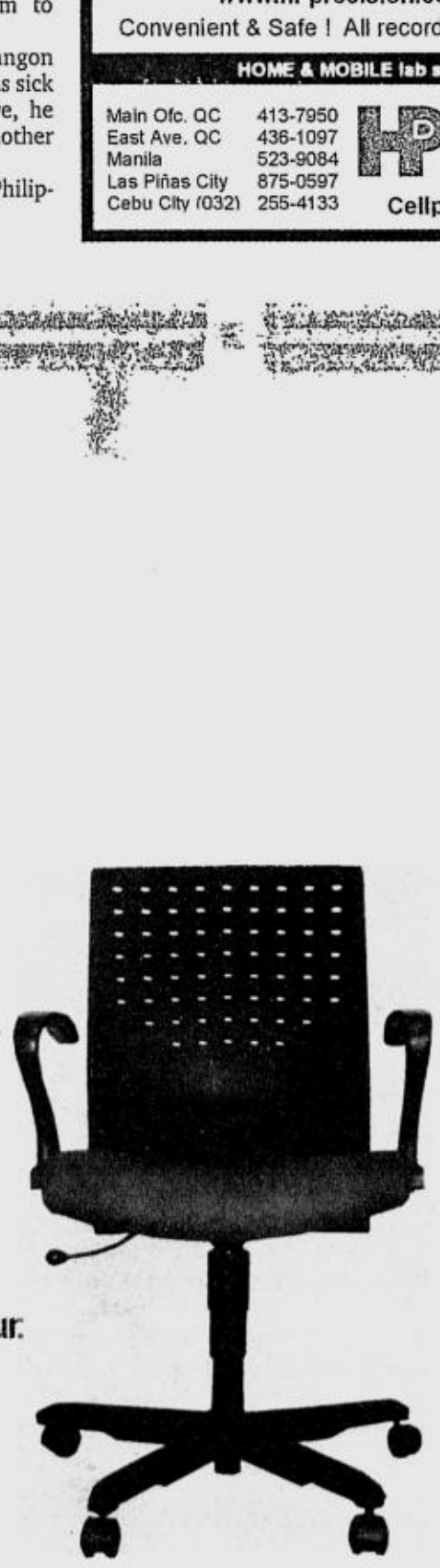

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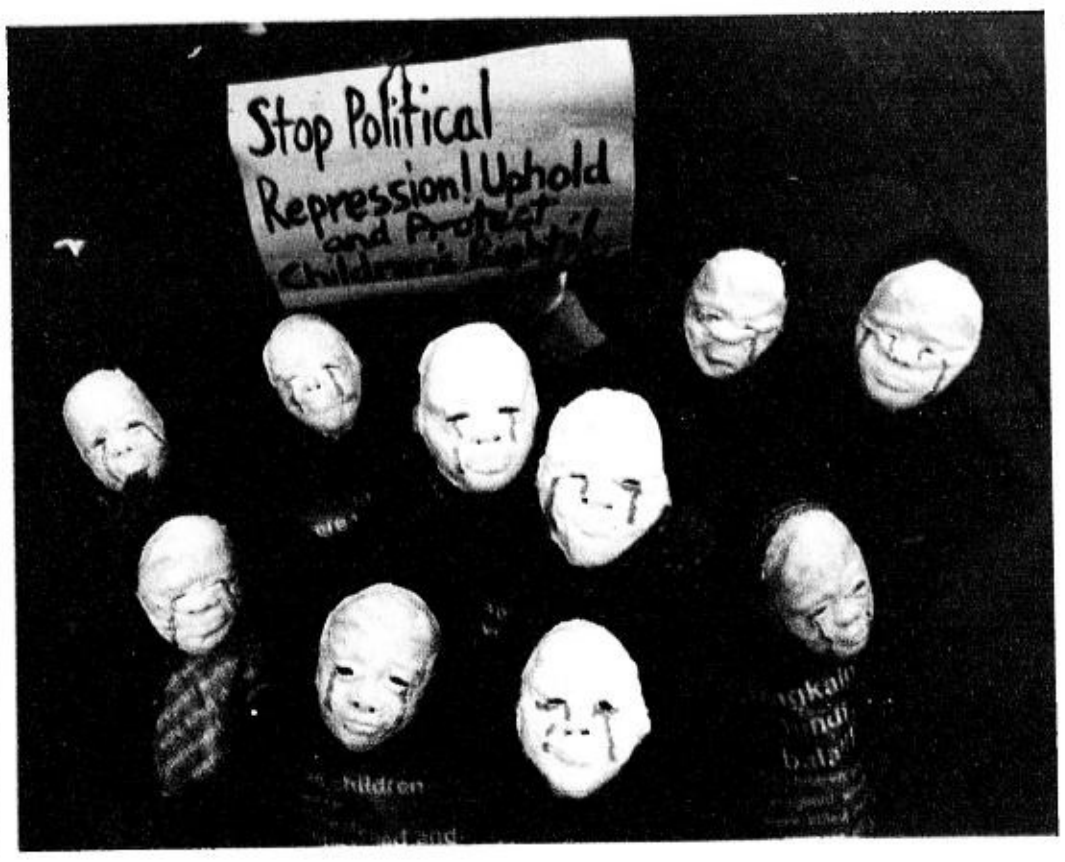


CHILDREN wearing masks with tear streaks gathered last week at Baclaran Church to call on the government to stop political killings. They were also there to honor the memory of 54 kids who were victims of state violence.
REM ZAMORA

Paper, crayons help child victims overcome trauma

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A TAPESTRY OF COLORFUL YET DISTURBING sketches made by children whose fathers and brothers had been killed in the government offensive against insurgents and terrorists, spoke of two things lacking in their lives: Peace and justice.

The portraits, sewn onto a purple mantle, were mostly of houses being burned, soldiers shooting a farmer, dead people sprawled on a rice field and a mother in tears.

These may be odd creations by young children, but being victims of violence, a paper and crayon were the only viable outlet for their lingering fears, pent-up emotions and eventually, a medium for their recovery, as the Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC) hopes.

The collage were displayed the other day at a gathering of around 100 children at Baclaran Church in Parañaque City.

They were there to honor the memory of 54 children who had been allegedly summarily executed by the military.

Since Sept. 8, CRC, a nongovernment organization providing psycho-social therapy and rehabilitation for children who are victims of state violence, has been holding a series of activities dubbed as "Children's Voices for Peace: Our Hopes and Dreams."

Innocent victims

"It is not known by many that the government's all-out war policy has taken a toll on innocent children," said Ma. Isabel Lanada, CRC executive director.

More than 215,000 children have been victims of political killings since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to office in 2001, said Lanada.

Out of the thousands, 69 were arrested and incarcerated, 106 survived slay attempts while more than 214,000 were displaced due to political harassment, CRC records showed.

Ten-year-old Pandoy came with his mother to the gathering to offer flowers and a Mass for his father, Alrico Barbas, and his older brother Jeric, who were gunned down by soldiers in their house in Barangay Magsaysay, Sta. Rita, Eastern Samar in July 2005.

Pandoy was quiet and had a distant stare. He stayed closely to his mother, Jennifer, and did not answer questions asked by the INQUIRER.

"Children like him don't easily talk about their experiences. So that's why we enter into their world through creative workshops. That is how we relate to them," said Alma Castro, a treatment and rehabilitation staff of the CRC.

Castro said Pandoy's earlier artworks were mostly a depiction of what happened to his father and brother. In one of his sketches, there were soldiers surrounding their house in the province, she noted.

Harrowing experience

It was before dawn of July 3, 2005 when unidentified armed men barged into Pandoy's house and shot dead his father. Pandoy's eldest brother, who was awakened by the commotion, was subsequently shot in the chest.

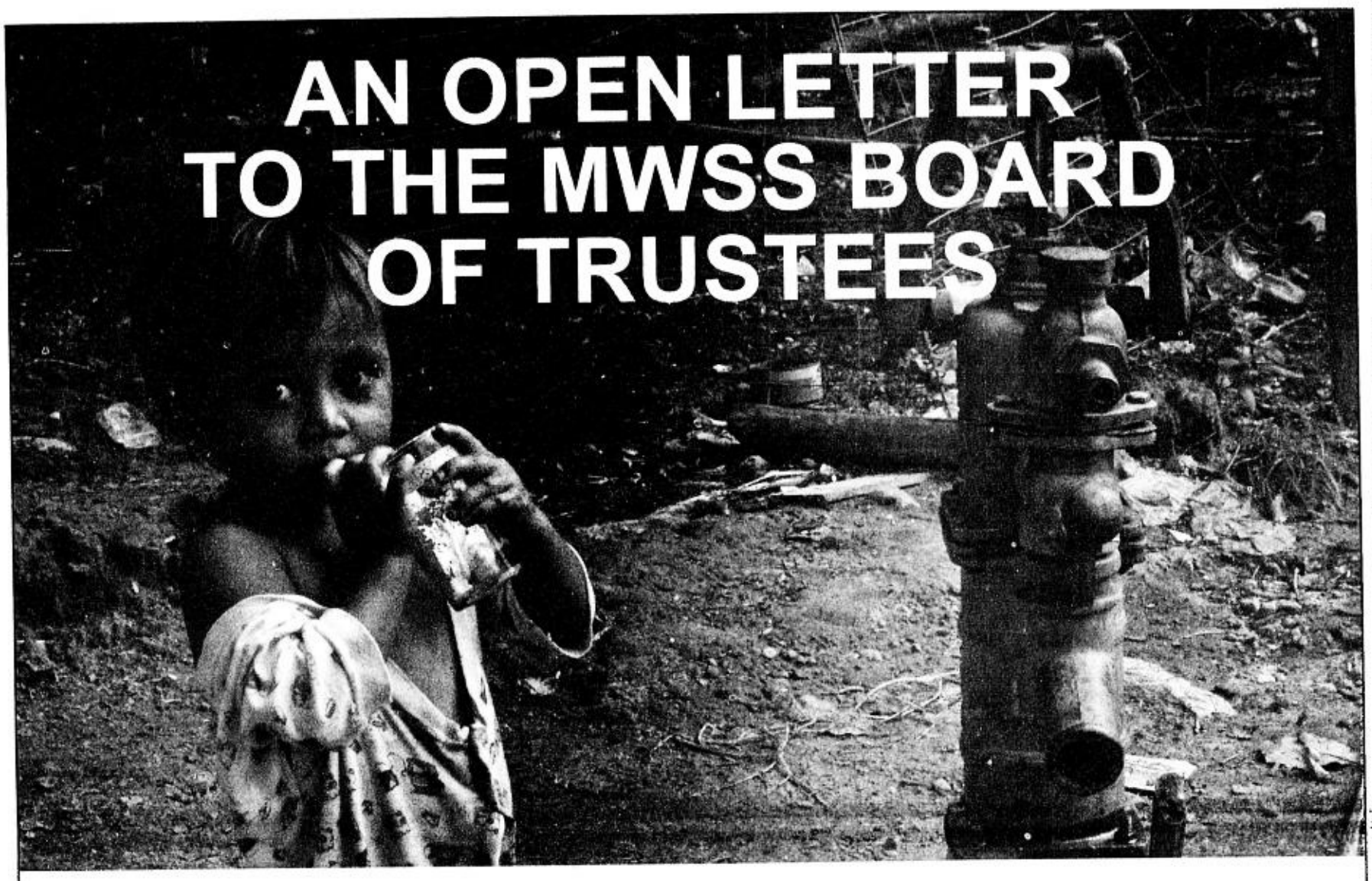
Pandoy, the second in a brood of seven, was the only one in the family who witnessed the killing. He ran for his life after the incident. The gunmen also fired at him, hitting him in the right shoulder, but he survived the attack.

Now a year after the tragedy, Pandoy is studying in a school in Manila. He is living in one of the orphanages recommended by the CRC with three of his siblings. But the three others were referred to another institution as the orphanage cannot support all of them, said Castro.

His mother is staying with another shelter while working as a volunteer for a nongovernment organization. The family is currently undergoing psycho-social therapy.

Castro said it may take a while before the family could completely recover from the tragedy. But she added that Pandoy was showing some improvement through his drawings.

"He now makes his own comics, whose plots are for kids his age," she said.



This pertains to the bidding for the 300 MLD Treated Bulk Water Supply BOT Project for which MWSS has pre-qualified four (4) bidders, namely: Kintech Technology, Inc. (Taiwan), Ranhill Utilities Berhad (Malaysia), Sierra Madre Group (Philippines) and NKCI Consortium (Philippines).

Based on available information, Kintech seems to have failed to disclose material facts which may have resulted in its inadvertent inclusion in the list of pre-qualified bidders.

Are the MWSS Trustees aware of the following:

1. Kintech recently built two (2) major plants for Taiwan Water Company (TWC) which, up to now, have not passed performance test runs. These are the Kaotan and Wongkong-yuan Plants, both located in Kaoshiung, Taiwan.
2. These two (2) plants have a combined total project cost of approximately NT$960 million which is equivalent to only US$30 million, in violation of the MWSS pre-qualification norm of total cumulative projects in the past ten (10) years of US$100 million with one (1) project being at least US$30 million in value.
3. These two (2) plants were physically completed in 2003 but failed their test runs in 2004 on both quantity and quality of water.
4. After prolonged explanations, negotiations and rectifications, these plants failed for the 2nd time the required test runs in 2005.
5. As a result of these two (2) failed tests and substantial delays, TWC sent a letter of termination to Kintech demanding the return of all amounts paid in the meantime to Kintech.
6. However, for whatever reasons, Kintech managed to temporarily set aside TWC's letter of termination and instead agreed to submit the dispute to arbitration with the Public Works Commission.
7. Based on arbitration results, Kintech was given one last chance to rectify these two (2) non-performing water plants up to 2007 and submit to a 3rd final make-or-break performance test soon thereafter. This is more than five (5) years from contract signing date and more than three (3) years from physical completion date of the two (2) water projects built by Kintech.

This situation now brings up several questions:

1. Were the above matters adequately disclosed in Kintech's submitted pre-qualification documents last October 20, 2005, the deadline for such requirements?
2. What kind of certificates of completion and acceptance did Kintech submit to MWSS as part of pre-qualification requirements on these two (2) failed plants?
3. All prospective bidders were instructed to sign and submit the Authorization to Verify Information on October 20, 2005. What did MWSS do with this authorization during the intervening evaluation period of nine (9) months until August 11, 2006, when it announced the pre-qualification of Kintech?
4. With the above track record of failed performance tests and project start–up delays, how could MWSS count on Kintech to speedily build, commission and operate the 300 MLD Bulk Water Project in order to avert an impending water crisis for Metro Manila?

The MWSS Trustees can still correct this oversight. We hereby request them to do so before it is too late.

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METROBRIEFS

3 cops nabbed for kidnap

CHARGES will be filed against three policemen arrested in Valenzuela City on Friday morning for allegedly kidnapping four people, including a Chinese trader. Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Northern Police District (NPD) director, identified those arrested as PO2 Reynaldo Turla, PO2 Rodrigo Gadia and PO2 Godofredo Animos, all of the NPD. The police are still looking for two other suspects, also believed to be policemen. According to the NPD chief, the five suspects went to trader Allan Ang's warehouse in Valenzuela City at around 11 a.m. Friday. After introducing themselves as agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, the policemen dragged Ang and three of his workers into the trader's L-300 van. They demanded money from Ang for his release and drove him to a bank where he could withdraw the cash. As the suspects were waiting for Ang to come out of the bank, members of the city's Special Weapons and Tactics Unit, who had been ordered to be on the lookout for the trader's van, spotted them. A brief chase ensued, resulting in the arrest of the three policemen.

Nancy C. Carvajal

New police, fire stations

MANDALUYONG will soon have new police and fire sub-stations at the foot of the Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge in Barangay Hulo. Costing P20 million, a three-story building which will house the police sub-station, fire sub-station and multipurpose hall is targeted for completion by February or March next year. Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali M. Gonzales said the project will ensure police visibility and faster response to fire calls and other emergencies in the area.

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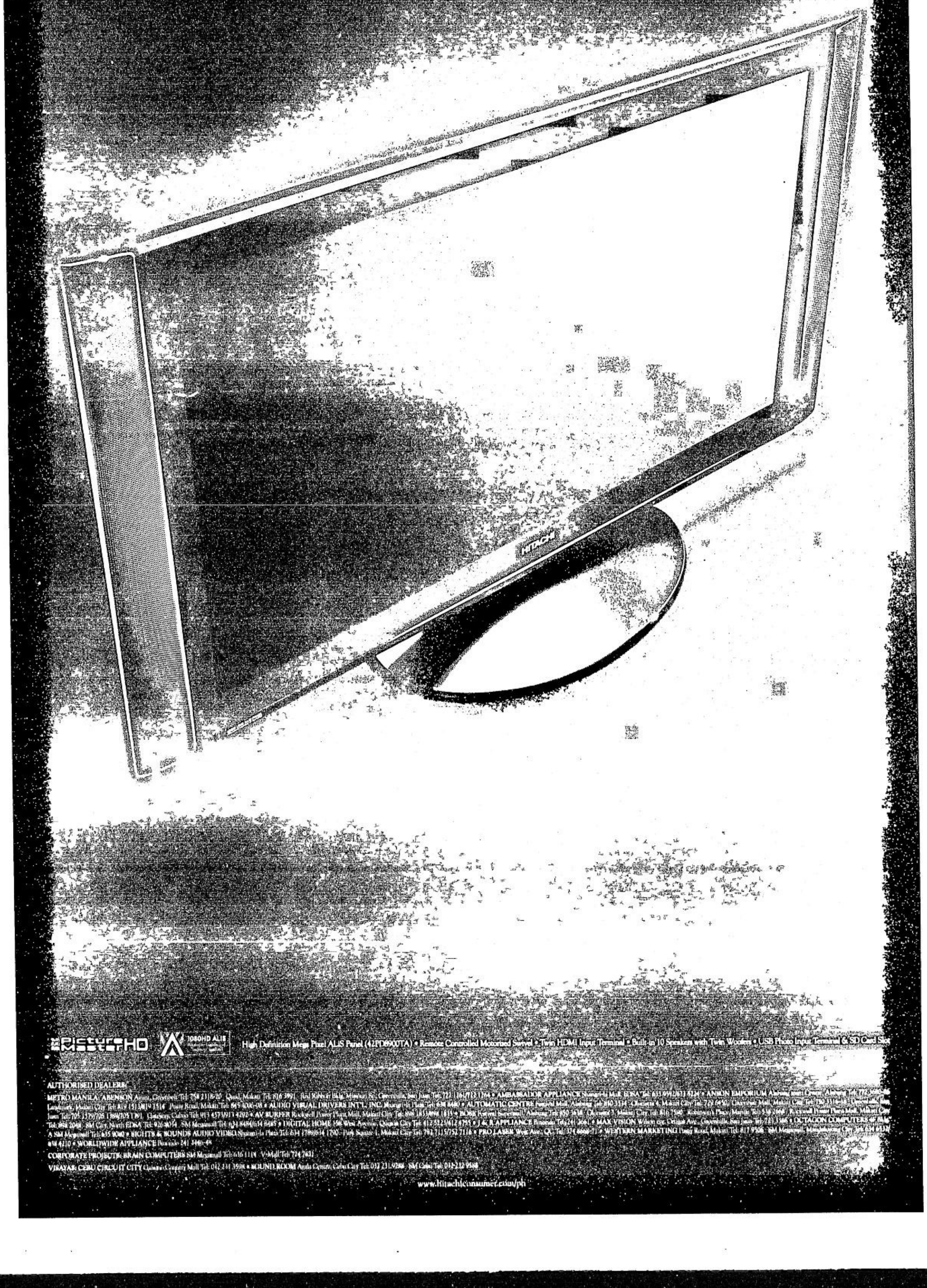

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India, Pakistan agree to resume peace talks

HAVANA—PAKISTANI PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agreed at breakthrough talks in Havana Saturday to resume negotiations on the disputed Kashmir region and jointly battle terrorism.

"The leaders decided to continue the joint search for mutually acceptable options for a peaceful negotiated settlement on all issues between India and Pakistan, including Jammu and Kashmir," the Indian premier said, reading a joint statement.

"It was agreed the peace process must be maintained and respected," said Singh, who was flanked by Musharraf.

"In this context, we have directed our foreign secretaries to resume dialogue," he said, adding they would meet "shortly" in New Dehli.

Saturday's talks, held on the sideline of a Non Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Havana, were the first high-level meeting between the two countries since deadly bombings in Bombay (also known as Mumbai) on July 11. India accused its neighbor of not reining in "terrorists." "We met in the aftermath of the Mumbai blasts. We strongly condemned all acts of terrorism and agreed terrorism was a scourge that needs to be dealt with," Singh said.

The leaders also agreed the two countries would put in place a joint system to "identify and implement counterterrorism initiatives and investigations." India had earlier indicated a condemnation of terrorism was key to reaching an agreement on the resumption of negotiations over Kashmir.

The Himalayan territory is shared by the two countries but claimed in its entirety by both. It has been the source of three wars since 1947, and at least 44,000 people have been killed since the outbreak of an Islamic insurgency in Indian Kashmir in 1989.

Indian foreign secretary designate Shivshankar Menon said the agreement on terrorism "has made it possible for us to clear resumption of the dialogue." "What we see is elements in Pakistan connected to terrorism in India. This is one way of dealing with it," he said of the agreement to set up an "antiterrorism institutional mechanism." "Terrorist incidents make it very difficult to deal with business as usual. Particularly if they come from Pakistan," he said at a news conference.

The Indian prime minister also held private talks with several of the leaders attending the NAM summit, including Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

Singh also met with Cuba's acting president Raul Castro, 75, who represented his convalescing brother Fidel Castro, 80 at the NAM summit. *AFP*

Singapore pol, cops in standoff over protest

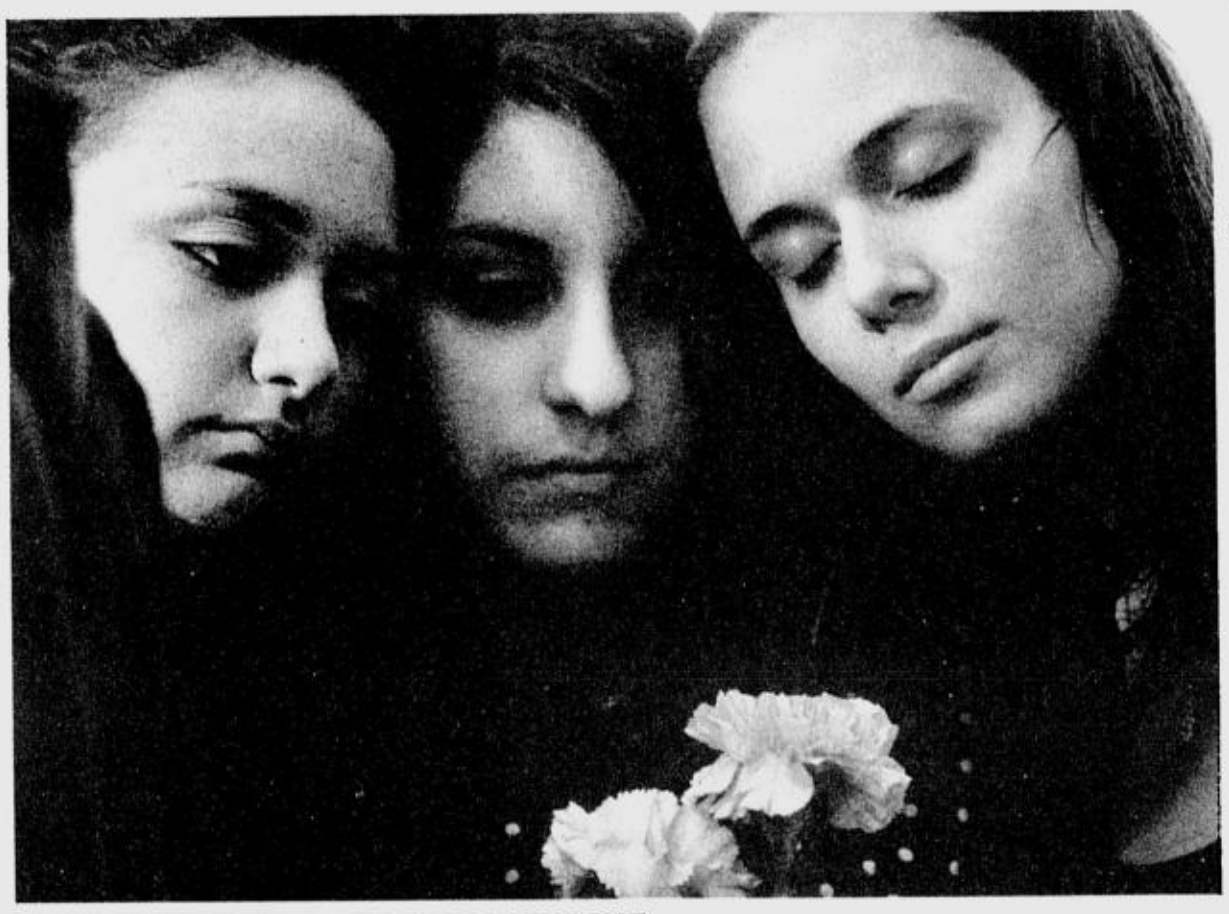
SINGAPORE—A DOWNTOWN STANDOFF between Singapore police and an opposition politician over the right to hold a protest march entered its second day on Sunday, after the overnight encirclement of Chee Soon Juan and several supporters.

Chee, who heads the tiny Singapore Democratic Party, had planned to hold a rally in a city park on Saturday, followed by a protest march to parliament past the convention center where thousands of financial big shots, bankers and journalists are attending the IMF-World Bank meetings.

But Chee, his sister Chee Siok Chin, and five supporters, were never allowed to leave the park. About 30 police formed human barricades around the Chees, at times linking arms and pressing in close to them to prevent their movement.

"They are physically preventing us from walking to the parliament. But they won't arrest me," Chee said. "We need to send a message to be firm, to continue to insist on freedom of speech." Chee had wanted to protest about the city-state's restrictions on freedom of speech and its widening income gap.

Under Singapore law, public gatherings of more than four people require a police permit. *Reuters*



REMEMBERING SLAIN MONTREAL STUDENT
Friends of Anastasia DeSousa, the 18-year-old student slain in this week's shootings at Dawson College, huddle close at a memorial service Sept. 16. AP

WorldBriefs

Iraq truck bomb kills 18

KIRKUK—A suicide truck bomber firing a machine gun with one hand exploded his vehicle near a police center Sunday, killing at least 18 people and wounding 65 in Iraq's northern oil city of Kirkuk, police said. The bomber detonated his car in front of a police investigation center in Kirkuk—a city claimed by both the Arabs and the Kurds—at 10:24 a.m. Many of the wounded were police officers, including the head of the investigation center. Kirkuk, a fragile ethnic mix of Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen, has long been a flashpoint in the country, especially with the potential revenues from the massive—and largely unexploited—oil reserves beneath the city. Until recently, violence between the communities was kept to a minimum, partly due to political institutions, including a strong provincial council. But in the past few months there has been a sharp increase in the number of explosions and car bombs. *AFP*

Bush defends CIA grilling

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Saturday defended his proposals to allow tough questioning of suspected terrorists as necessary to keep Americans safe, despite a revolt in his own Republican Party over the issue. With the US Congress considering legislation on how to try and question foreign terrorist suspects, Bush is pushing a proposal to allow for what he calls "an alternative set of procedures" for CIA interrogations. "As we work with the international community to defeat the terrorists and extremists, we must also provide our military and intelligence professionals the tools they need to keep our country safe," Bush said in his weekly radio address. A trio of powerful Republican senators—John McCain of Arizona, John Warner of Virginia and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina—has endorsed legislation that would protect the rights of detainees. *Reuters*

Post-poll turmoil in Mexico

MEXICO CITY—Mexican leftists, who say the July 2 election was stolen, declared their candidate their "legitimate president" on Saturday, a symbolic move reducing the risk of street protests to make the country ungovernable. Aides said Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who narrowly lost the election, would use mainly political means rather than widespread protests in leading opposition to conservative President-elect Felipe Calderon. *Reuters*

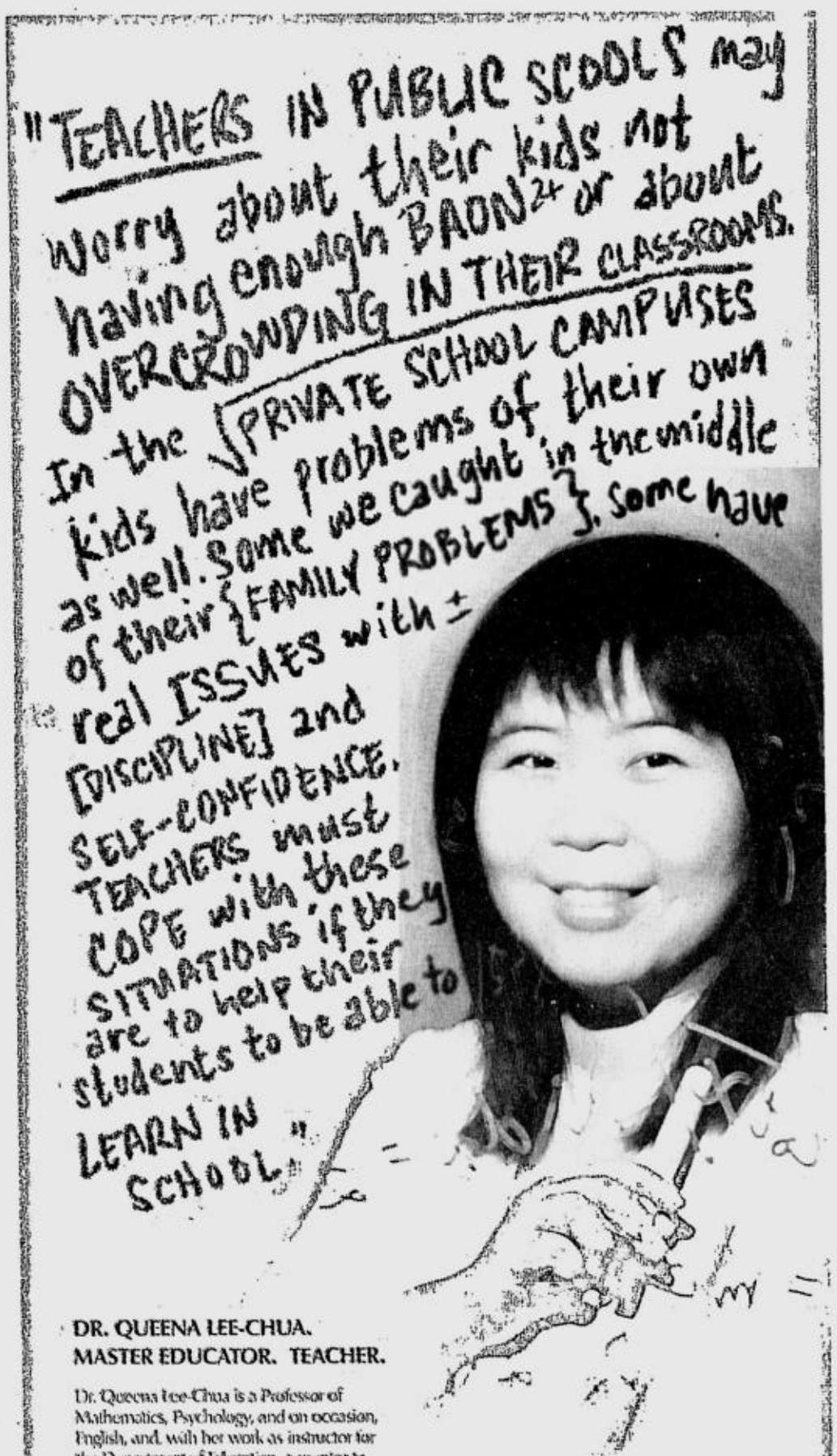
6 blasts kill 4 in Thai town

HAT YAI, THAILAND—THAI POlice picked through the wreckage for clues Sunday after a string of bombs tore apart a popular tourist area, killing four people and wounding dozens in troubled southern Thailand.

The six simultaneous blasts ripped through Saturday night crowds in bars and cafés in Hat Yai, the main tourist hub in the southern region that has been gripped by a Muslim insurgency which has killed more than 1,400 people.

A Canadian tourist was among the latest dead, according to officials.

Health minister Pinit Jarusombat said 14 other foreigners were among the 72 wounded, and included six Malaysians, three Singaporeans, three Britons, an Indian and an American. *AFP*



DR. QUEENA LEE-CHUA.
MASTER EDUCATOR. TEACHER.

Dr. Queena Lee-Chua is a Professor of Mathematics, Psychology, and on occasion, English, and, with her work as instructor for the Department of Education, a mentor to both teacher and student alike. Whether she's teaching at Ateneo, or conducting training seminars for her fellow teachers, Dr. Queena is determined to live up to the title of teacher. "I believe that the young, truly, are the future of the nation. And teachers carry the heavy burden of shaping their minds and their souls."

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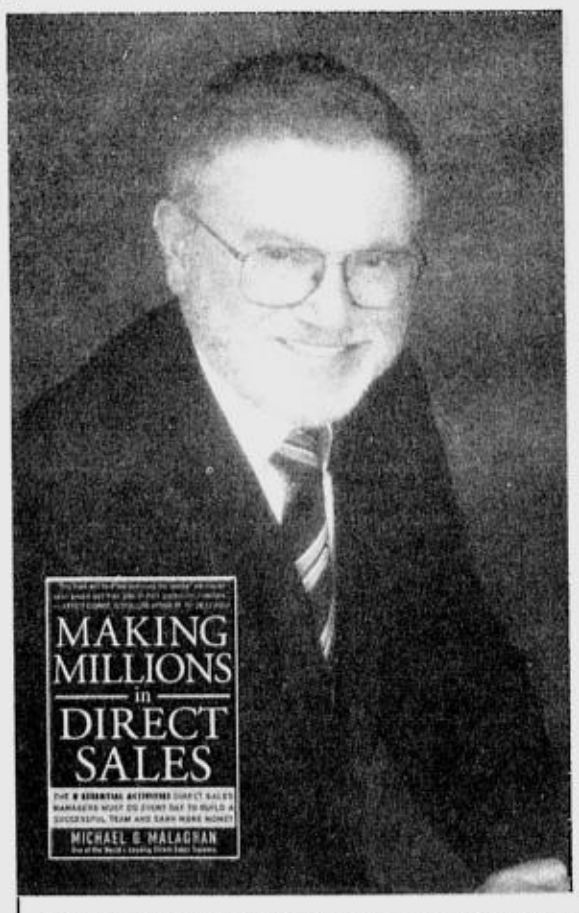

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Muslims want more than just 'regrets'

VATICAN CITY—Pope BENEDICT XVI'S STATEment that he regretted causing any offense to Muslims fell short of an apology, Islamic groups said, as Morocco became the first Muslim country to recall its Vatican ambassador over the Pope's remarks.

Morocco's foreign ministry announced that its ambassador would be recalled effective Sunday for consultation on the instructions of King Mohammed VI after "offensive remarks about Islam and Muslims made by Pope Benedict XVI at Regensburg university on Sept. 12." The head of the Roman Catholic Church on Saturday said he "sincerely regretted" that he may have offended Muslims, but stopped short of retracting his words.

The Muslim world seethed with fury over the Pope's comments, which critics said linked violence and Islam.

Reacting to the Pope's statement, Muslim groups in Egypt said Benedict had not been sufficiently contrite.

"This is not an apology. The Vatican secretary seems content to confirm that the Pope is sorry because his remarks were misinterpreted. But they were not misinterpreted," said Abdel Moneim Abul Futuh, a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood group.

"The Pope made a mistake, he must recognize it and apologize," he added.

In Jordan, Zaki bin Arshid, the general secretary of the Islamic Action Front—one of the country's most influential political parties—said Benedict's comments Saturday were "a step in the right direction, but not enough." "The apologies must be accompanied by clear and calming letters," he continued, adding, "if the Pope's declarations were just an error, then an apology will be sufficient." But he continued that he hoped the remarks made in the speech were "not the Pope's or the Roman Catholic Church's real views, because then the situation would be very serious." Meanwhile, the Muslim Council of Britain, Britain's Ramadhan Foundation, the British Muslim Initiative and the Islamic Society of Britain all reacted positively to the Pope's statement.

THE POPE looking at his pastoral cross in a Rome procession May 26, 2005. AFP

Mohamed Abdul Bari, general secretary of the Muslim Council of Britain, called the statement a "welcome step" but the Pope needed to repudiate the views he quoted to restore relations between Muslims and the Roman Catholic Church.

"It's certainly a welcome step that the Pope recognizes the hurt that his speech caused. He quoted the words of the emperor who made very derogatory remarks about the prophet, and his inclusion has caused enormous hurt," Bari said.

"We feel it has undermined confidence in the Vatican," he added.

Mohamed Umar, chair of the Ramadhan Foundation, a youth organization, had on Friday accused the Pope of falling into "the trap of bigots and racists." However, following Saturday's statement from the Vatican, he told Sky News: "We welcome his apology and we hope now we can work together and build bridges. At the same time we would condemn all forms of violent demonstration." *AFP*

Pope's remarks undermine John Paul II's work

VATICAN CITY—Pope BENEDICT XVI'S REmarks on Islam are a blow to the dialogue between the Muslim world and the Roman Catholic Church that his predecessor John Paul II did much to encourage.

On Friday the Vatican's new foreign relations secretary, Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, stressed that the Church saw this dialogue as "crucial." But Mamberti also defended the pontiff's speech, saying interfaith dialogue should be "carried out truthfully and based on sound intellectual foundations" and that "the Holy Father's thoughts should be seen in that context." Benedict XVI's remarks on Islam and on holy war, analyzing the link between religion and violence during a speech on Tuesday in Germany, have sparked a wave of indignation across the Muslim world that the Pope's apology on Saturday does not appear to have calmed down.

"It was very tactless, given the delicate situation we are in" just months after caricatures of the prophet Mohammed in the European press enraged many Muslims, German theologian and Islam specialist Hans Zirker said on Friday.

Meanwhile the Ramadan Foundation, a British Muslim organization, said it was "disappointed that the current Pope didn't follow his predecessor's example," after "John Paul II spent 25 years building bridges and establishing links with the Muslim community." Benedict XVI's speech has cast doubt over his planned visit to Turkey in November.

The secular Islamic country's top Muslim leader Ali Bardakoglu said he could see "nothing to be gained for the Muslim world by the visit of someone who holds such views about Islam and its prophet." John Paul II, the German Pope's predecessor, made considerable achievements in improving relations between Islam and Catholicism.

In 1986 he took the unprecedented step of hosting a grand inter-religious gathering that saw Jewish, Christian and Muslim dignitaries gather in Assisi, central Italy, alongside Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, representatives of the Shinto faith and African and Amerindian religions for a day of prayer for peace.

Years later in November 2004 the Polish Pope was still promoting the same ideals: "No one has the right to use religion as an instrument of intolerance, as a means of aggression, violence and death," he told a mixed-faith delegation from Azerbaijan, a mainly Muslim country.

John Paul II also sought direct dialogue with Islam. Already the first Pope to enter a synagogue, in May 2001 in Damascus he became the first Pope to enter a mosque.

When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became pontiff as Benedict XVI, he immediately declared that he wanted to continue in the same direction—but "with clarity" and avoiding any "syncretism" or blurring of the faiths. *AFP*

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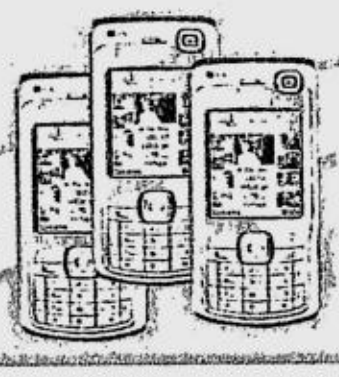

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See poster for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3342 Series of 2006

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SPORTS

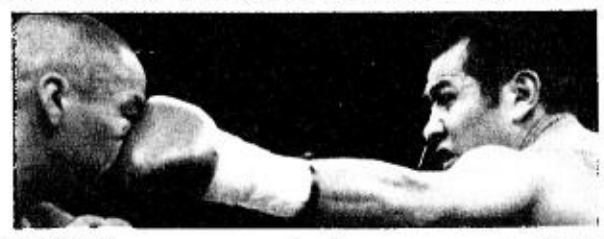
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Reyes** sustains streak /A35

■ **Cañare** captures ABF title /A37



■ **'Boring'** Barrera retains crown /A40

Blue Eagles in finals; Tigers stay in hunt

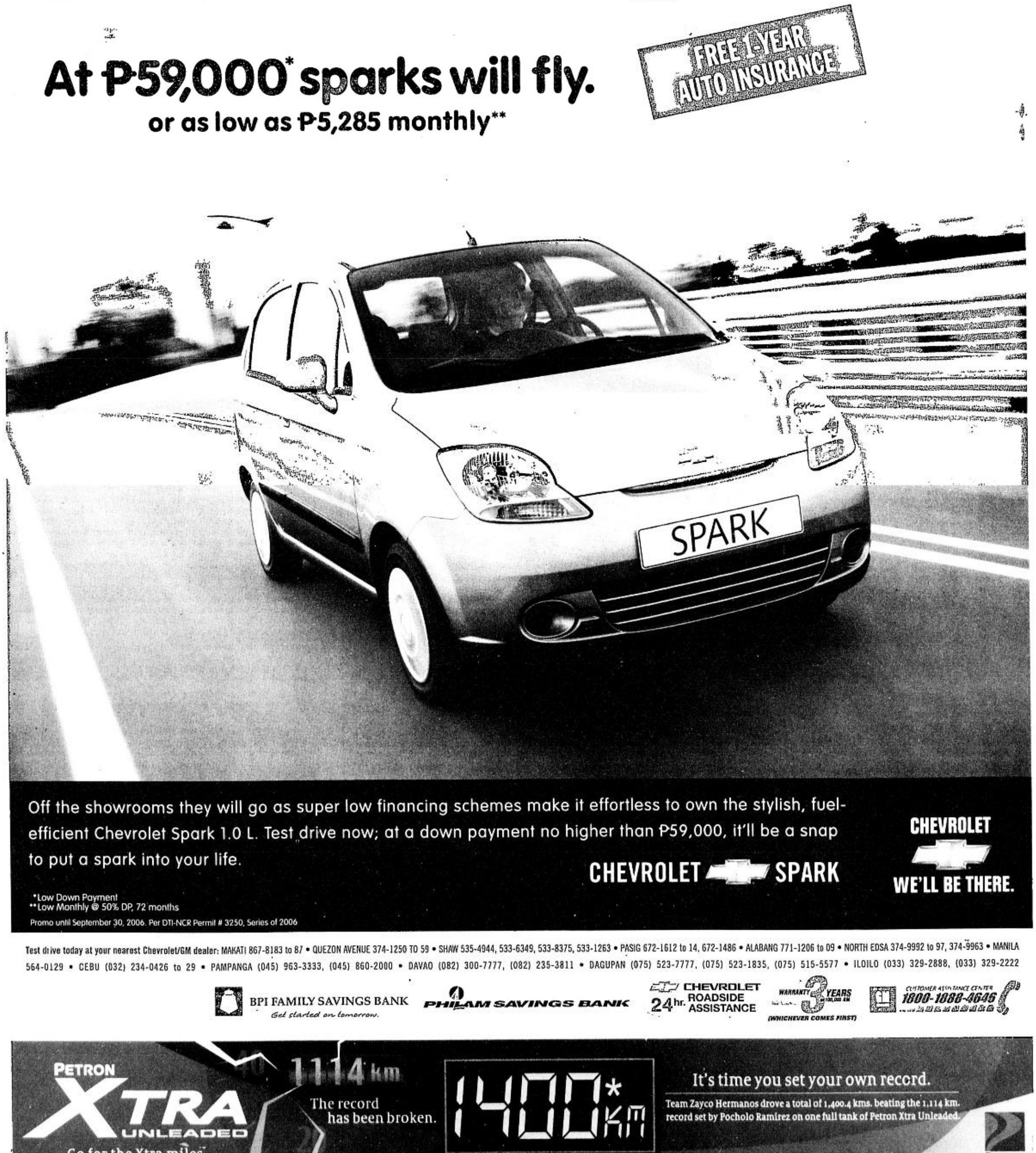
GAMES THURSDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
12 noon—UST vs FEU (Women Finals)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs FEU (Juniors Finals)
4 p.m.—UE vs Santo Tomas (Seniors Final Four)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES FLASHED STEADY nerves, the Tigers of Santo Tomas desire, heart and pride.

The Eagles, with their veterans in their element, disposed of the Adamson Falcons, 76-73, to claim the first UAAP championship slot in their Final Four battle yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

TITLE/ A34



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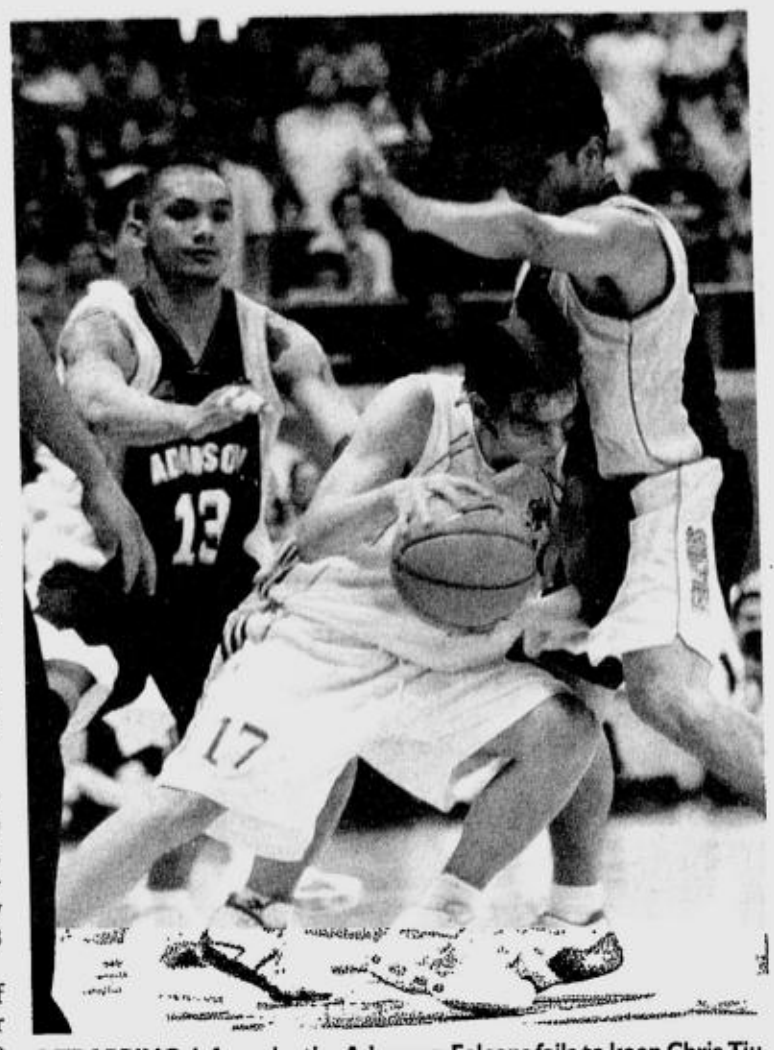
Eagles gain finals; Tigers stay alive

From page A33



A TRAPPING defense by the Adasmon Falcons fails to keep Chris Tiu and the Ateneo Blue Eagles from soaring. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

The Eagles will be enjoying a week-long break after the Tigers stunned the second-ranked University of the East Warriors, 79-75, to forge a knockout match for the remaining Finals berth on Thursday.

JC Intal delivered 17 points and 11 rebounds to power the Eagles' return trip to the Finals after three years.

"Our concentration was really on defense and not on offense," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "We played the best defensive team in the league, and obviously, you have to play good defense if you want to beat them."

The Eagles last won the title in 2002, then followed it up with a runner-up finish to the Far Eastern Tamaraws in 2003.

Aside from Intal, the Eagles also anchored their offense in the closing minutes on Doug Kramer and Chris Tiu, who nailed two buffer free throws with 1.9 ticks remaining.

June Cortez came through for the Tigers, contributing six of his seven markers in the last 21.1 seconds to clinch the win.

"It's no longer about talent or skills, it's about desire, heart and pride," said UST coach Pido Jarencio. "The boys worked hard because they want this."

When the Warriors closed in at 73-71, Cortez provided enough breathing room for the Tigers by completing a three-point play and sinking three of four charities.

The Tigers found another revelation in sophomore Mark Canlas who poured in a team-high 16 points.

Just like in their two close encounters in the elimination round, the Falcons fought hard until the dying seconds.

Ken Bono, who had 33 points, including 14 in the final canto, on top of nine rebounds and three blocks, got the Falcons back in the game after completing a three-point play that cut the lead to 74-73 with 18.3 seconds left.

The Falcons again saw a ray of hope when Tiu turned the ball over with an errant inbound pass in the next play.

But Patrick Cabahug, who had a huge game with 25 markers, missed a jumper on the right wing with 1.9 seconds remaining.

Forced to stop the clock, Paul Gonzalgo fouled Tiu, who made up for his error by nailing two free throws that cushioned the Eagles lead, 76-73.

"Ken was so amazing, he hit those crucial threes," noted Black. "Good thing that we were able to answer his baskets and we didn't give up."

In junior action, the FEU Baby Tamaraws claimed the remaining Finals slot after edging the Adamson Baby Falcons, 76-66, in the semifinals.

The Tamaraws will clash against the Ateneo Eaglets, who earned an outright championship berth after sweeping the elimination round.

Save for the seniors division, FEU will also advance in the title round of women's play.

The Lady Tamaraws unseated last year's champion Ateneo Lady Eagles, 46-44, in the Final Four to arrange a title showdown against the UST Tigresses.

UST nipped the University of the Philippines Lady Maroons, 72-68, in the other semifinal match earlier.

The varsity scores:

First Game

ATENEO 76—Intal 17, Escalona 15, Tiu 11, Kramer 10, Arao 8, Al-Hussaini 8, Salamat 5, Laterre 2, Escueta 0, Reyes 0, Quimson 0.

ADAMSON 73—Bono 33, Cabahug 25, Poloyapoy 7, Orera 4, Pacheco 2, Yong 1, Gonzalgo 1, Santos 0, Basillo 0, Agustin 0.

Quarters: 11-14, 32-34, 53-54, 76-73

Second Game

UST 79—Canlas 16, Duncil 13, Espiritu 12, Cruz 11, Evangelista 10, Cortez 7, Cuan 4, Dizon 2, Taylor 2, Ababou 2.

UE 76—Custodio 17, Borboran 15, Arellano 11, Gregorio 10, Espiritu 9, Canizares 6, Martinez 3, Bandayng 2, Thiele 1, Labagala 1, Briones 0.

Quarters: 18-14, 38-32, 52-49, 79-75

Republic of the Philippines
Metro Roxas Water District
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Tel. # (036) 6210-737 / 6210-044 / 6215-474
Telefax # (036) 6216-083

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

No. 011-06

The **METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT (MRWD)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, MISCELLANEOUS HARDWARE AND LABOR COST FOR INSTALLATION
Location	:	NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT SOLOCON, PANITAN, CAPIZ
Brief Description	:	3 UNITS OF 500 KVA DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER 3 UNITS OF CURRENT TRANSFORMER 3 UNITS OF POTENTIAL TRANSFORMER 3 UNITS OF COMBINATION CUT-OUT W/ LIGHTNING ARRESTER 1 UNIT KILOWATT METER KV2C WITH K SWITCH 1 LOT MISC. HARDWARE INCLUDING LABOR COST FOR INSTALLATION
Approved Budget for The Contract	:	Php 4,511,100.00
Source of Funding	:	PROJECT EQUITY BY ADMINISTRATION
Contract Duration	:	60 CALENDAR DAYS
Delivery Period	:	60 CALENDAR DAYS

The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check, will be opened. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations A (IRR-A)

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Advertisement	September 12-26, 2006
2.	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 27-October 7, 2006
3.	Pre-bid Conference	October 8, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
4.	Pre-qualification conference	October 20, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
5.	Deadline for Submission of Bids	October 20, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
6.	Opening of Bids	October 20, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
7.	Bid Evaluation	October 23, 2006
8.	Post-qualification	October 26, 2006
9.	Notice of Award	November 3, 2006

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) GONZALO GLEN B. DELGADO
BAC Chairman

Address : Metro Roxas Water District
MRWD Bldg., Km. 1, Roxas City, Capiz

(PDI – September 18 & 22, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM
MALACAÑANG, MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Media and Communications Secretariat of the 12th ASEAN Summit* through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Presidential Broadcast Staff – RTVM is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid the hereunder equipment:

PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS BROADCAST EQUIPMENT:

Three (3) sets Hanging Camera
- 3 units 2/3" 3CCD Digital Video Camera
- 3 units Camera Adaptor
- 3 units A20x8.6BERM 20x ENG type zoom lens with extender
- 3 rolls Triax cable 5 meters
- 3 rolls Triax cable 25 meters
- 6 rolls Triax cable 100 meters
- 3 units Camera Control Unit with camera operational unit & SDI output board
- 3 units Rack Mount Bracket
- 3 units A20x8.6BEMD 20x zoom lens with extender professional remote control type lens with ECU-12A, Motorized extender for A20x8.6BEMD lens and ULH-30M-R70 cable for ECU-12A
- 3 units Professional Pan Tilt with FH-10
- 3 units Power Supply for CPT
- 3 units Multi Head Controller for CPT
- 3 rolls Control Cable 150 meters

Two (2) sets Wireless System for the Camera
- 2 units L1103 Encoder/Transmitter 1.95-2.7GHz
- 2 units L3421 Antenna-Tx Omni, Spring, +3dBi 1.95-2.7GHz
- 4 units L3520 Antenna-Short White, Omni, V Pol, +3dBi, 1.95-2.7 GHz
- 4 units L3020 S-Band to UHF Down-converter
- 2 units L2102 4 input Diversity Receiver, Ultra Low Delay Connecting Cable and Sundries
- 2 units Battery Mounting Plate
- 2 units Camera Mounting Plate
- 2 units L9052 DC Supply option for L2xx
- 1 unit 15 input Video Production Switcher autovolt
- 1 unit 10 input Video Production Switcher autovolt
- 1 set Wireless Intercom
  - **Wireless Headset includes:**
  - 1 pc. Base Station
  - 2 pcs. Active Antenna
  - 5 pcs. Belt Pack
  - 5 pcs. Headset CC95
- 2 units 4 gang 4 inch LCD Monitor, autovolt
- 3 units 14" LCD Video Monitor, autovolt
- 8 units VTR Recorder/Player with analog input board and SDI input/output
- 8 units 9" LCD Video Monitor, autovolt
- 3 units 10 output Video Distribution Amplifier, autovolt
- 4 units AC Adaptor AC550, autovolt
- 12 units Rechargeable Battery Pack, Hytron
- 1 unit Battery Charger, Quad; autovolt
- 2 units Boom Microphone
- 8 units TBC/Frame Synchronizer with SDI
- 3 units AVR Stavol 1kva, Industrial type
- 5 units AVR Stavol 1.5kva, industrial type
- 3 spools Video Cable RJ-59 with 100 pcs BNC Connectors
- 3 spools Audio Cable, 3 wires with 50 female & 50 male 3 pins connectors
- 3 spools AC Cable-Wire size flat cord # 12 (300m/spool)
- 30 units Multi Outlet, Universal, Heavy Duty, 10 gang
- 4 pcs. Powered Speaker, 140 watts, 50Hz

Approved Budget for the Equipments : Php 39,924,413.42
Source of Funding : ASEAN Fund
Delivery Period : On or before October 30, 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Date	Time	Place
1)	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 11, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM
2)	Pre-Bidding Conference	September 21, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM
3)	Submission and Opening of Bids	October 03, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin & Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel. No. 734-5681 / 735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MELBA B. ALIGAEN
BAC Chairman

(PDI - September 18, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., Cor. 7th St., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 891-7601 to 24

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Bidding for Janitorial Services For One Year

1. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA)**, through the **Corporate Operating Budget Approved by the OWWA Board of Trustees,** intends to apply the sum of **nine million six hundred thousand pesos only (Php 9,600,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **bidding for janitorial services for one year.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **janitorial services**. The effective date of the contract shall be November 1, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **OWWA BAC Secretariat** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **September 6, 2006 to October 5, 2006 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

   Room 301, Third Floor, OWWA Center Building
   FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **three thousand pesos (Php3,000.00).** The method of payment will be **cash.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **September 22, 2006 10:00 am at the Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 6, 2006 2:00 pm.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **cash, or certified check or cashier's check** and in the amount of **ninety six thousand pesos only.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 6, 2006 2:00 pm** at **Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.
9. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Agency : Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
Contact Person : Mr. Elmer N. Joven
OIC, GAS
Address : OWWA Center Building,
FB Harrison cor 7th Street,Pasay City
Telephone No. : 891-7601 Local 5304
Facsimile No. : 833 – 1010
Email Address : owwabac@yahoo.com

DIR. ALBERT Q. VALENCIANO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 11 & 18, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., Cor. 7th St., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 891-7601 to 24

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Bidding for Security Services for One Year.....

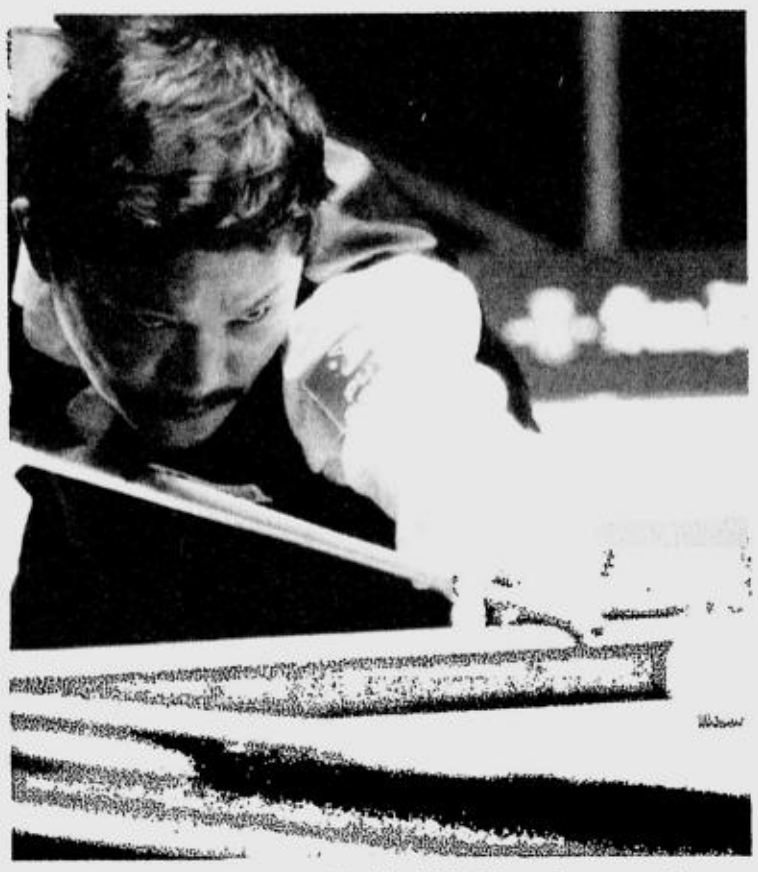
1. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA)**, through the **Corporate Operating Budget Approved by the OWWA Board of Trustees,** intends to apply the sum of **ten million nine hundred eighty thousand two hundred twenty seven pesos and eighty eight centavos (Php10,980,227.88)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **bidding for security services for one year.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **security services.** The effective date of the contract shall be **February 1, 2007.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **OWWA BAC Secretariat** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **September 8, 2006 to October 9, 2006 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

   Room 301, Third Floor, OWWA Center Building
   FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **three thousand pesos (Php3,000.00).** The method of payment will be **cash.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **September 25, 2006 10:00 am at the Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 10, 2006 2:00 pm.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **cash, or certified check or cashier's check** and in the amount of **one hundred nine thousand eight hundred two pesos and twenty eight centavos only (Php109,802.28).** Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 10, 2006 2:00 pm** at **Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.
9. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Agency : Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
Contact Person : Mr. Elmer N. Joven
OIC, General Administrative Service
Address : OWWA Center Building,
FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City
Telephone No. . 891-7601 Local 5304
Facsimile No. : 833 – 1010
Email Address : owwabac@yahoo.com

DIR. ALBERT Q. VALENCIANO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 11 & 18, 2006)



EFREN "Bata" Reyes pockets his third title in less than a month.

Reyes sustains streak; RP sweeps SMB Tour

JAKARTA—EFREN "BATA" REYES CONTINued to wield his magic even if it was virtually for the crumbs.

After winning $500,000 last week, Reyes picked up $10,000 this time by dominating again the Jakarta leg of the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour to complete an unprecedeted Filipino sweep of the region's nation-hopping event.

The 52-year-old billiards phenom outclassed local bet Ricky Yang, 11-6, in the finals to clinch his third international title in less than a month.

The unprecedented run started last Aug. 27 when he captured the inaugural World Cup of Pool with Francisco "Django" Bustamante in South Wales, Britain, where they split the first prize of $60,000, then put away the biggest champion's purse of $500,000 in the IPT World 8-Ball Open tournament last Sept. 10 in Nevada.

He went home in Angeles City last Wednesday, flew to Jakarta the next day and three days later had another $10,000 in his pocket which was the same amount he won in topping the SMB Tour's kickoff leg in Vietnam last May.

Two other Filipino stars picked it up from Reyes with Ramil Gallego prevailing in Bangkok last June and Rodolfo Luat proving his worth in Kaohsiung last Aug. 6.

Reyes was in topnotch form as he took six of the first seven racks with run outs in the first, fifth and seventh, a 1-9 ball combo at the third and clean outs at the fourth and sixth racks.

But Yang won the next three racks out of four by capitalizing on a scratch by Reyes in the 11th to slightly close the gap on the Reyes lead, 4-7.

But Reyes, cool and calculating as ever, stepped up his game and immediately went back on track to his winning ways by taking advantage of the two ball miss by Yang on the very next rack and sink an easy 5-9 combo.

Still, it was a valiant effort for the first-time Indonesian finalist, cleaning out the 13th rack off a difficult Reyes safety on the 2 ball and another run-out in the 14th to move within 6-8.

The turning point of the match came in the 15th rack when Reyes pocketed a seemingly impossible corner pocket on the black 8 ball. It took a little bit of luck and the Reyes touch to successfully pull off the corner pocket caper.

From there, Reyes cruised to victory.

Reyes gained a finals berth by thumping Taiwanese Wang Hung-hsiang in the semifinals, 11-6, while Yang, who won $5,000 as runner-up, defeated compatriot Muhammad Zulfikri in their final four encounter, 11-9.

No lack of love for Manny Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HAS THERE BEEN AN ABSENCE OF ADmiration, lack of love for the country's most celebrated sports hero?

No way. Manny Pacquiao is still a great national treasure, the prime property capable of effectively endorsing a product in whatever state or form.

Of course, there was an onrush of admiration when Efren "Bata" Reyes came home with yet another trophy after bagging the top prize of $500,000 in the International Pool Tour World 8-Ball Championship, the richest in the sport.

In a stunning twist, Ronnie Nathanielsz notes that Reyes pulled off 66 percent of the votes to 33 percent for Pacquiao at the RP boxing idol's own Pacland Website.

OK, Bata would continue to win over fans long after he has triumphed and humbly left the international pool parlor.

But Pacquiao has remained the hottest national property, the most relevant warrior when doing his thing inside the boxing ring.

For one, would you rather have Reyes win another championship than have Pacquiao repeat over Erik Morales in November?

Yes, the degree of dejection would be truly immeasurable if Pacquiao fails in his next mission.

Pacquiao continues to carry the whole nation on his shoulders; although there are observers, like agriculture activist Benjie Angeles who swears Reyes failed to immediately get his due from Malacañang because he did not happen to be a GMA lapdog.

Wow! The sideline debate on greatness was that intense it brought out closet writer Tony A. Bulatao, an IT practitioner, who shares us his gift of observation.

Take it away Tony Boy:

* * *

Isn't it greatness being enshrined in the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame? Had his exploits in his early years (when tournaments were unheard of) been chronicled, the greatness could have been greater. In those years, not so many had seen Reyes play, but many have heard of "Bata" and his feats. You may say he was a legend before greatness was acknowledged. Fearlessness is not so much an attribute of greatness. Reyes' greatness is beyond fearlessness: he is well respected and feared by his opponents. Many contemporaries around the world think of him as the best player in billiards, a game where there is no weight division. Point for Reyes.

In boxing you use also your brain, but the more brawn the better, although "thinking" fighters are more admirable than their brawnier counterparts. In billiards, you use also your brawn particularly in breaking, but the lesser brawn the better (*mas magaling*). Reyes' handicap is breaking. Brute force has no place in artistry, even in magic. Point for Reyes.

Reyes is not only a magician, many would consider him great. But his greatness doesn't show. Is that not great?! Simple appearance, unassuming, soft-spoken, self-deprecating ways admired not only by Filipinos. Gabriel "Flash" Elorde comes to mind. Nothing fancy outside the ring, nothing fancy beyond the pool table. For a champion, Reyes' ordinariness is extraordinary. His humble demeanor is worth emulating, especially by people of the first kind. Point for Reyes.

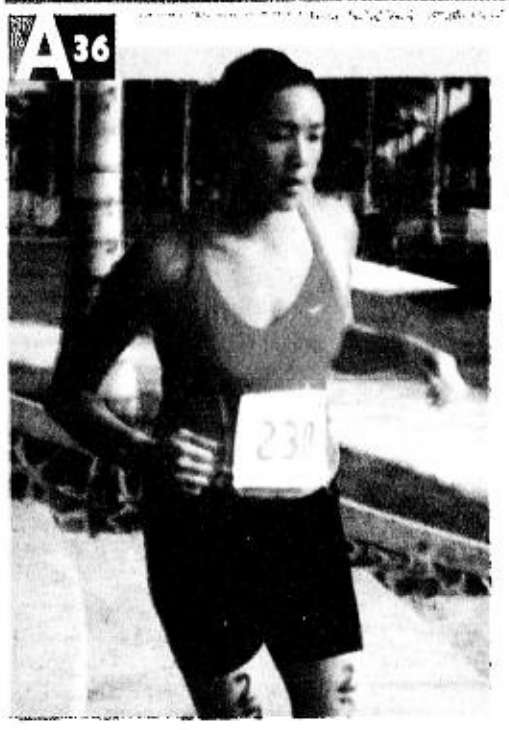
Too bad, championships don't automatically give you product endorsements, more so with ordinariness. Aside from toothpaste, he could be a poor endorser of shaving products. Ordinary people don't use much grooming products. He doesn't seem to use athletic socks. I suggest products *para kay* Mrs (for the wife). Point against advertisers.

Expect not much drama after his winning a championship. No punching the air. No flipping on the floor. No strutting. You may see him scratching his head (attention, shampoo advertisers), which he usually does when he commits errors. It makes you sometimes wonder who is the winner; but just look at the face of the opponent to be sure. Reyes seems averse to fanfare. In his recent arrival in Manila, he went directly from the airport to his Mrs and family in Angeles, Pampanga, which I believe he's inclined to do rather than attend a parade. Point against Reyes.

No climbing on top of the pool table. I doubt it if Minnesota Fats did. A bold point for the Filipino Everest climbers.

* * *

(NO FENCE: Architect Noel Elnar says there was no intention to bar a television crew that wanted to shoot a segment on national fencers at the PhilSports in Pasig. Had they wrote the approving authority a second time—as required—they would've been readily ushered into the area. After proper procedures, facilities would be always available to the public, Elnar, acting PhilSports administrator, assures.)



LAKESHORE LOOKER: Lilianna Christi Manahan en route to victory in her division.

SPEEDO-NAT'L TRIATHLON

Vilog rules 3rd leg, regains RP team slot

THREE-TIME NATIONAL TRIATHLON champion George Vilog easily topped his division in the fifth leg of the 2006 Speedo-National Age Group Triathlon (NAGT) series Sunday at The Lakeshore in Mexico, Pampanga.

It was the third win in the 30-34 age category for Armyman Vilog, who clocked 1 hour, 37 minutes and 42 seconds for the swim-bike-run event.

With the overall title virtually in the bag, triathlon president Tom Carrasco said the Vilog, a native of Davao, would be taken in as a member of the national training team again.

Vilog said he paced himself in the first two events before pulling away from chief rival Mark Candelaria in the run stage to duplicate his earlier leg victories in Davao and UP-Los Baños.

"Malakas ang mga kalaban ko sa swim at bike, kaya hindi ko sila sinabayan (I paced myself because my chief rivals were strong in the swim and bike legs," said Vilog.

Candelaria settled for the 35-39 group title with a time of 1:38.09 in the race also sponsored by PowerBar, David's Salon and Day's Spa, and the Asian Centre for Insulation.

Other male age group winners were Deo Erik Paolo Timbol (1:58.06) 16-19 years, Reymark Dabu (1:56.09) 20-24, Reinzi del Rosario (1:55.09) 25-29, ADB's Rune Stroem, (1:47.04) 40-44, and Alaska PBA team owner Fred Uytengsu (1:57.15) 45-49.

Also winning were Jenny Guerrero, who took finish-line honors in the women's division, Patricia Baybayan in the women's 14-19 years (2:26.03), Carmina Ann Nombres and Andrew Gatmaitan in the 12-15 age group, and Lilianna Christi Manahan (women's) and singer Jimmy Bondoc in the men's beginners' division.

In the kids' aquathlon event, Ingrid Dizon and Philip Vince Peña showed up the field in the 10-and-under category while Samantha Turingan and Jean Pascal Hallewyck emerged victorious in the 11-12 age group.

"We are happy that there are many new faces emerging in the triathlon scene," said Carrasco who awarded the trophies to the winners along with The Lakeshore's vice president for operations Eli Paras and Speedo's Lennie Delmendo and Emy Buccat.

"We will continue this talent-identification program of TRAP with the help of our program sponsors like Speedo."

The last leg of the tough series will be held Oct. 22 at Ayala-Alabang.

Lions begin title series with Dolphins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE TWO SCHOOLS FEW PEOPLE PREDICTED WOULD MEET in the finals square off today at the start of a championship series many expect to go the distance.

Powerhouse and title-starved San Beda goes up against underrated but championship veteran Philippine Christian in Game 1 of their best-of-three series for the NCAA men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs PCU (Juniors, Game 1)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs PCU (Seniors, Game 1)

The Red Lions, the top team in the eliminations, are in the championship for the first time in nine years, finally shedding the doormat image they have carried the past few years. They were barely out of the cellar last year as seventh placers.

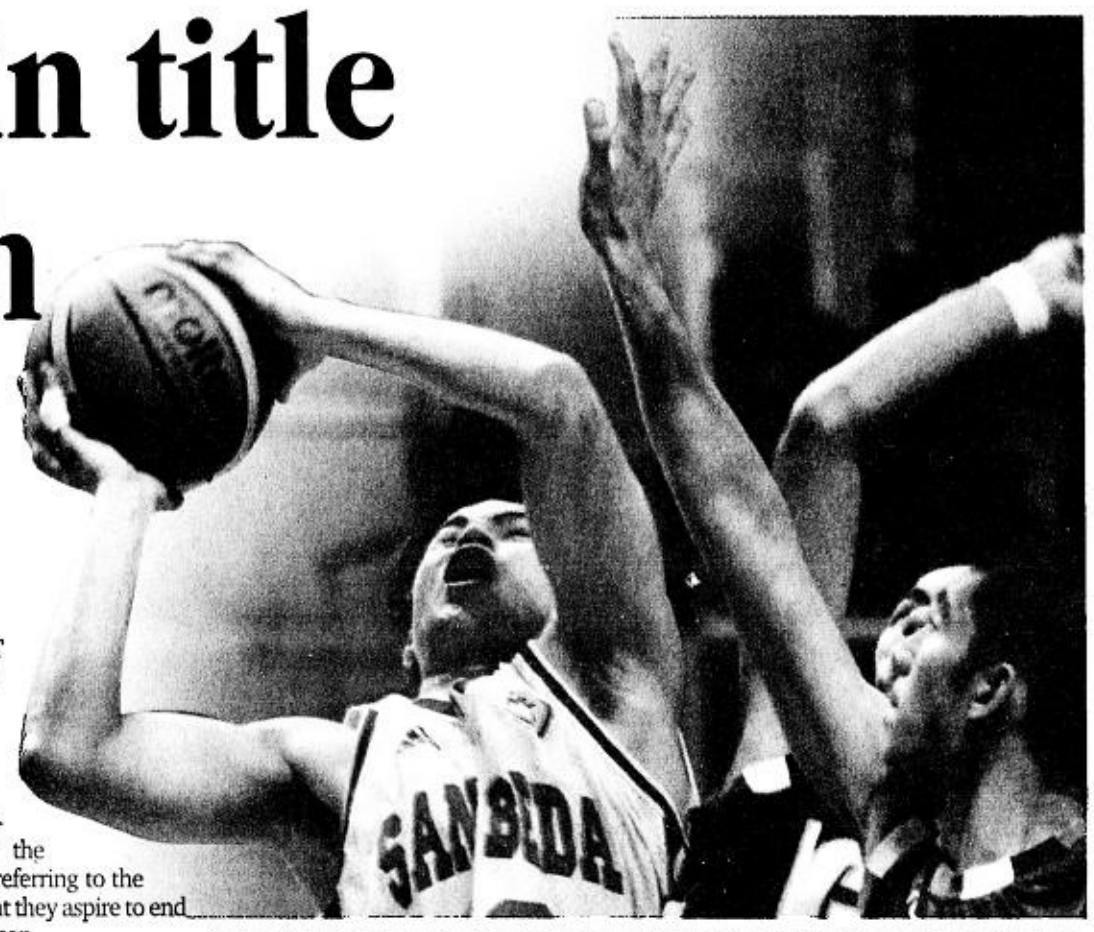
This time, they will be gunning for the trophy the Lions last hoisted in 1978 when PBA greats Chito Loyzaga and JB Yango were in the roster and nobody from the present lineup was even born yet.

The mission appears in the shirts of Bedan alumni bearing the words "End 28 in 82," referring to the 28-year title drought that they aspire to end in the league's 82nd season.

"We didn't reach the finals thinking at the start of the season that we will end that long winless spell," said SBC coach Koy Banal. "We are here because we try our best to win one game at a time, and that will be our attitude going to the finals."

On the other hand, the Dolphins are going for a second title in three years, after eliminating the Letran Knights, who beat them for the crown last year.

"It's given that San Beda is highly favored, but my players have been in the finals for three straight years," said PCU coach Joel Dualan. "We are not new to this situation and that will be to our advantage."



SAN Beda's John Paul Escobal drives off Kevin Timothy McCoy of PCU (right) the first time the two teams met in the elimination round. EDWIN BACASMAS

San Beda proved this season that it is willing to sacrifice on offense—it scored just two points in a quarter of one game—just as long as the opposing team doesn't score much either.

The Red Lions thrive on defense, using their 6-foot-8 Nigerian Samuel Ekwe to discourage penetrations and their talent-heavy backcourt to crowd enemy attempts.

Erstwhile offense-oriented Rogie Menor has been transformed this season to guard the opposing team's main gunner. Roleplayers like Alex Angeles, Ed Tecson, JC Hermida and Riego Gamalinda are assigned to set up defense and leave much of the scoring chores to veteran forward Yousif Aljamal and rookie guard Pong Escobal.

The Dolphins, however, make a living hitting from all corners with an experienced lineup led by 2004 Rookie-MVP awardee Gabby Espinas, Ian Garrido, Lei Navarro and Jason Castro.

1,500 jins vying in Petron nat'l schools meet

ABOUT 1,500 JINS ARE EXPECTED TO SEE action in the 2006 Petron national interschool taekwondo championships set on Sept. 24 at the Rizal Memorial coliseum.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado says the event gives schools a good oppportunity to gauge the progress of their taekwondo program.

Competition will be conducted in senior (men and women), junior (men and women), mid-junior (men and women) and grade-school (boys and girls) divisions.

Among the institutions definitely vying for honors are De La Salle University (Taft, Zobel, Lipa and Dasmariñas), University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas, Ateneo de Manila, Far Eastern University, University of the East, San Beda College (Alabang, Mendiola and Taytay), Letran College, Don Bosco (Makati and Mandaluyong), St. Theresa's College, Lourdes School (Mandaluyong and Quezon City), OBMC, University of Batangas, Philipine National Polica Academy, Philippine Military Academy, Diliman Preparatory School, School of St. Anthony, St. Vincent School, UPIS and Rizal High.

The one-day competition is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Petron, Accel and Milo.

Martial arts enthusiasts, especially children who are eager to learn taekwondo, and other sports fans are invited to watch. Action starts at 9 a.m.

RP team still strong even without Bata, Django

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE ABSENCE OF EFREN "BATA" REYES and Francisco "Django" Bustamante from the national team that will see action in the Doha Asian Games on Dec. 1-15 will be hardly felt because the Philippines is fortunate to have a deep and strong bench capable of winning medals in the quadrennial meet.

Even without Reyes and Bustamante, the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines headed by Ernesto Fajardo and billiards' godfather Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, longtime benefactor of the two players, can still enter a formidable team composed of veteran internationalists. Among them are Antonio Lining, who teamed up with Bustamante in winning the 9-ball doubles gold, one of three golds won by the Philippines in the 2002 Busan Asiad; 2005 SEA Games gold medal winner and 2004 world champion Alex Pagulayan, the durable Rodolfo Luat, Dennis Orcollo, 1998 Bangkok Asian Games gold medalist Gandy Valle, snooker specialist Marlon Manalo, former Asiad medal winner Lee Vann Corteza, Antonio Gabica, Leonardo Andam and 8-ball exponent Ronnie Alcano, one of the few local players who has beaten Reyes in rotation.

The 52-year-old Reyes is skipping the Asian Games in Doha because he is defending his world title in this year's IPT (International Pool Tour) 8-Ball Championship in Orlando, Florida, which is slated in the same week as the Doha Asiad.

On the other hand, the 42-year-old Bustamante pulled out of the Asiad team to avoid the risk of disqualification because he has been taking steroids—a prohibited drug in the Asian Games—to ease the recurring pain from an injured elbow. "It would be a big shame if I tested positive for taking an illegal drug," he said. "I don't want to embarrass the country."

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said he has no plans of talking with the billiards association for either Reyes or Bustamante to reconsider their decision. "The national sports associations know what they are doing. And I think billiards has a deep bench that is still capable of winning the gold."

* * *

Efren Reyes is more popular than Manny Pacquiao. In a recent survey, Bata Reyes emerged the country's ultimate sports idol, beating popular boxer Manny Pacquiao by a vast margin. According to Pacland website, Reyes received the nod of 66 percent of the respondents while Pacquiao got only 33.

In voting for Reyes, one respondent said, "Much as I adore Manny Pacquiao, I'd go for Reyes because he's been bringing us pride and joy for a long, long time now."

Said another respondent: "Efren is the greatest pool player of all time while Manny is like SRR (Sugar Ray Leonard or Sugar Ray Robinson). With Efren, there is no contest, everybody agrees that Reyes is the man."

Still, another said, "Efren Reyes is the only Pinoy as far as I know who is the best in what he does. Pacquiao has achieved a lot, but he still has to prove that he is greater than another Filipino boxer, Hall of Famer Flash Elorde." Elorde held the World Boxing Council junior lightweight title for more than seven years, starting when he knocked out American Harold Gomes during the inauguration of the Araneta Coliseum on March 16, 1960, while Pacquiao—even though he is the richest athlete in the history of Philippine sports—still has no legitimate boxing crown at present.

Larry's Cup slated at Wack Wack on Sept. 28

THE INAUGURAL LARRY'S CUP, A GOLF TOURNAment designed to raise funds for two foundations, tees off on Sept. 28 at the West course of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club with a field of more than 250 players from the government, business and media. Organizers said proceeds from the one-day event will go to the Lambunao National Foundation Inc., and the Ramendo Livelihood and Educational Foundation Inc., which have been chosen as this year's beneficiaries. Tournament chair Mark Mendoza said the 18-hole event will use the Modified Double Peoria System to make the competition more exciting. Tournament fee is P3,500 for individual or P16,000 for a team of four players. For inquiries, email the Secretariat at moc0403@yahoo.com, or call 726-7125, 723-0665, 0917-8340912 or 0918-2643623.

Cabagnot mom pleads for prodigal guard

By June Navarro

STA. LUCIA REALTY IS IN A dilemma on whether to give Alex Cabagnot another chance or dump the delinquent point guard for good.

Cabagnot is repentant for his misdeeds after the sophomore playmaker from the University of Hawaii-Hilo abandoned the Realtors without a word two months ago.

Team sources said Sta. Lucia management has already learned to move on without Cabagnot. The team is now contemplating on whether to take its prodigal guard back or penalize him harshly.

Aside from a P20,000 fine awaiting Cabagnot for playing two games in the Las Vegas Summer League without Sta. Lucia's consent, team governor Buddy Encarnado had vowed to seek a lifetime ban from the league.

"Boss Buddy is still undecided on what to do with Cabagnot," said a team insider who declined to be identified.

"He (Encarnado) understands that Cabagnot was influenced by his peers. But at the same time, he wants to make this player an example that you cannot just abandon your team and return if you feel like it."

Encarnado and team manager Ariel Magno couldn't be reached for comment but another source said Cabagnot's mother, Jo Del Rosario, talked to Encarnado over the phone and pleaded that his son be given another chance.

Should the Realtors reinstate Cabagnot, the team will have a surplus of players.

According to the same source, team management will sit down with Cabagnot soon after his arrival from the United States.

REPENTANT: Alex Cabagnot

"Boss Buddy will decide after their heart-to-heart talk," said the source. "Never in his 24 years with basketball has he put a player down. But a lesson must be taught and it will be on his mind when he talks with Cabagnot."

Cabagnot left for the US in a huff after the Realtors got booted out in the wild-card phase of the season-ending Philippine Cup.

It was actually the second time that Cabagnot had gone AWOL. After being picked second overall in the 2005 draft by the Realtors, Cabagnot left the country, purportedly to pursue his studies.

It turned out Cabagnot was at a loss on what kind of contract he would get from the Realtors.

As a result of his latest booboo, Cabagnot's three-year contract with the Realtors is now bound to be restructured if player and team settle their differences.

Cabagnot is supposed to receive P225,000 a month in his second year and P337,500 in the last year of the pact after the Realtors gave him the maximum salary for a rookie last year.

Cañare captures ABF Hong Kong leg plum

JOJO CAÑARE RESERVED HER SHARPEST form in the finals, nipping Thailand's Angkana Nervriseth, 231-225, Sunday to win the Hong Kong leg of the Asian Bowling Federation Tour at the Thunder Bowl here.

The longtime Philippine team mainstay more than made up for her fifth place finish in the Hong Kong International Open a day earlier by showing up the top 16 players of the event who advanced to the ABF Tour's Hong Kong phase.

Cañare got going by eliminating no less than the Masters winner of the Hong Kong International Open, Shalin Zulkifli of Malaysia, 220-209, in Round 1 of the knockout phase.

She reached the semifinals by ousting Janet Lam of Hong Kong, 202-182, then clinched a title slot by booting out another Hong Kong star, Vanessa Fung, 203-184.

Angkana, who made it as No. 11 among the 16 qualifiers, advanced to the title showdown with Canare by eliminating local bet Cookie Lee, 182-151, in the other semifinal duel.

The Thai had earlier set the tournament's biggest output in a 256-214 win over Novie Phang of Indonesia in Round 1. Then she cooled off, but still prevailed over Daphne Tan of Singapore, 192-166, to reach the semifinals.

BIG FINISH: Champ Jojo Cañare.

Veteran Remy Ong of Singapore captured the men's title by outplaying Jeffrey Choi of Hong Kong in the finals, 245-162.

In the Hong Kong International, top seeds Wu Siu-hong of Hong Kong and Zulkifli of Malaysia brought home convincing victories by capturing the Masters titles.

Overnight leader Wu had to work a little harder when faced with this year's Vietnam International Open champion and former RP team coach Purvis Granger of the United States in the stepladder finals.

Wu was forced to a sudden-death decider after loosing to the American, 191-234 in the first match.

But the 23-year-old Asian Championship gold medalist fought back galantly to topple Granger, 250-197, to win his second Hong Kong Open title after his first success in 2002.

Granger settled for second despite knocking out fifth-seed, Hussain Al-Suwaidi of the United Arab Emirates and sixth-seed, Steven Yeung with the championship's first and only perfect game. *With a report from Bong Coo*

Cotta upend Braves in NBC opener

KIDAPAWAN CITY, NORTH COTABATO—Bidding for a third straight title, Ozamiz got off to a big start at the opening of the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup tournament Saturday by downing host North Cotabato, 76-67, at the packed provincial capitol gym here.

Reigning MVP Marlon Basco came up with a double-double performance to power Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozzamiz cagers past the Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol and team manager Mayor Efren Piñol.

Basco scored 16 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as he almost single-handedly thwarted the Braves' furious rally.

Spring-Tagaytay shared opening-day honors with Ozamiz by subduing Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia Golden Harvest, 68-62, in the other game.

Nani Epondulan exploded for 23 points to carry the load for the Spring-Tagaytay squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and vice president and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino in the tournament sponsored by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Molten and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Action continues today with Ozamiz and Spring-Tagaytay clashing at 6 p.m. and North Cotabato and Valencia squaring off at 8 o'clock.

Ozamiz jumped to a 22-10 lead, but the Braves rallied behind Rex Ligue, Tonyboy Espinosa and Eduardo Allado Jr. to close within four, 53-49, going into the payoff period.

Basco then came into the picture to preserve Ozamiz's triumph.

Aldrin Morante and Danny Capobres ably supported Epondulan with 16 and 13 points, respectively.

Nat Cruz, a 6-foot-7-forward, was the only double-digit scorer for Valencia with 15.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 72—Basco 12, Dacia 9, Bansil 9, sampilo 8, Alberto 6, Cavan 6, batog 5, Llangco 4, Lapera 2, Alvarado 2, delina 2, Nicdao 2, Libatog 0.

NORTH COTABATO 67—Ligue 16, Jawod 13, espinosa 10, Allado 8, fernandez 5, Tanigue 4, Cabanog 3, Dagatan 2, Manalac 2, Tamayo 2, Martinez 2, Clar 0.

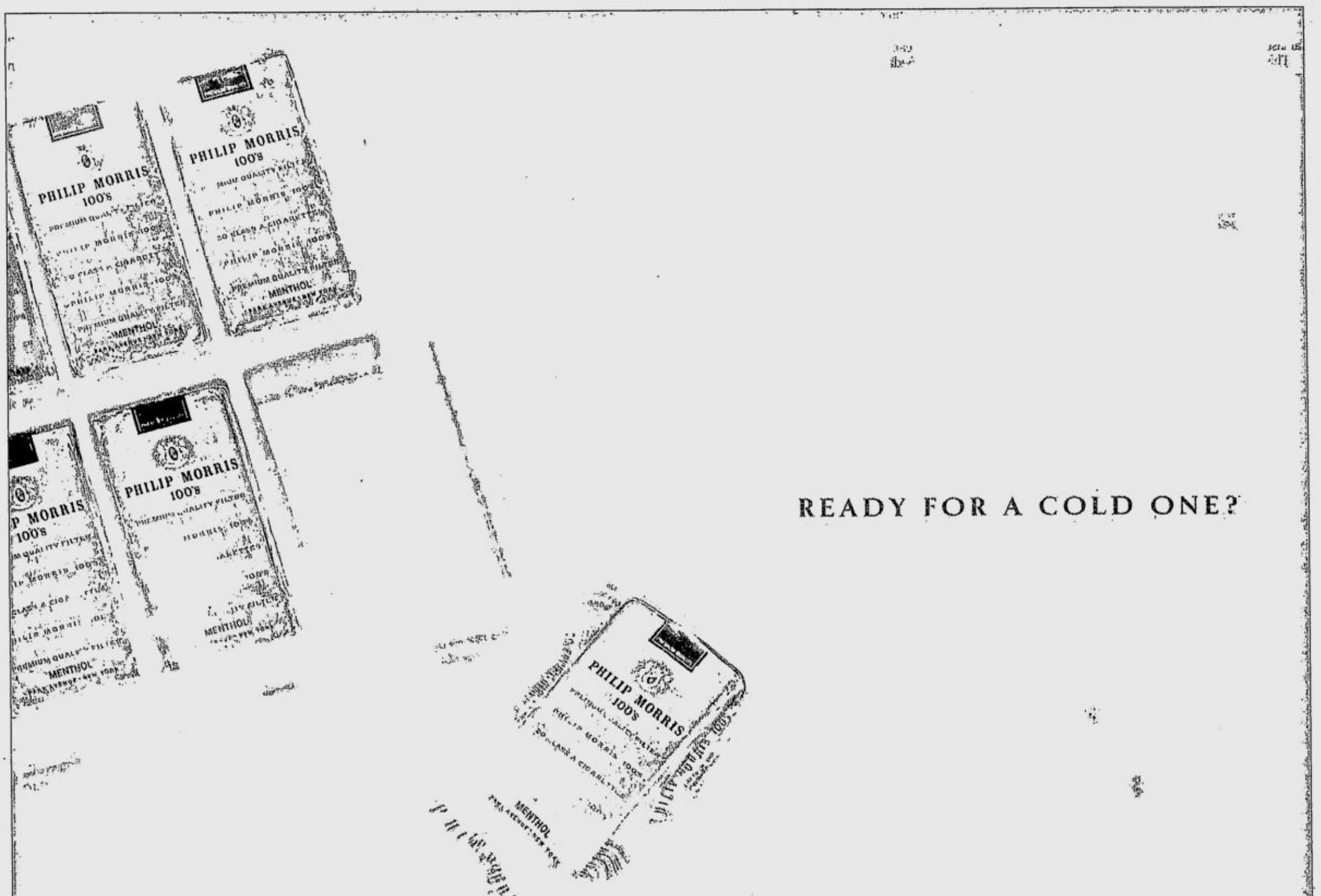
Quarters: 22-10, 36-27, 53-49, 72-67

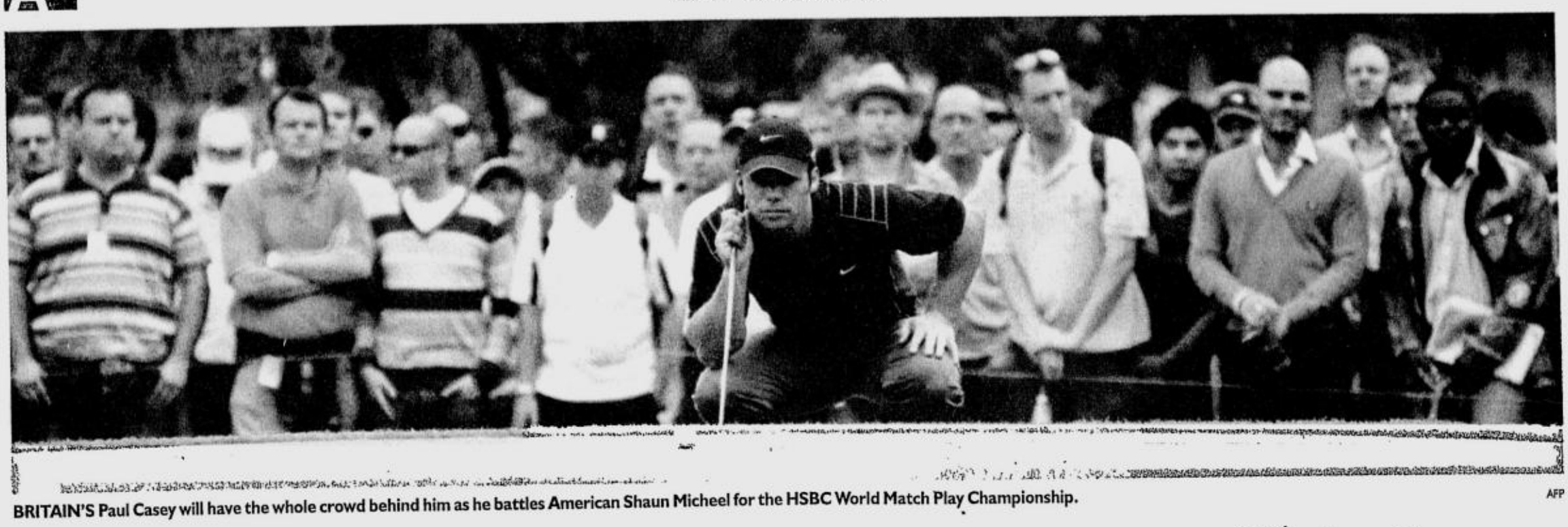
* * *

SPRING TAGAYTAY 68—Epondulan 23, Morante 16, Capobres 11, Neo 6, Mallari 5, Finuliar 1, Genido 0, Tajonera 0, Guiyab 0, Bamson 0, Cuenca 0.

VALENCIA 62—Cruz 15, berami 8, cesar 7, Cummings 6, Concha 6, Adams 5, Dragon 4, Valaes 3, Naillon 2, celiz 2, Braga 2, Clavel 1.

Quarters: 21-14, 33-32, 49-49, 68-62





BRITAIN'S Paul Casey will have the whole crowd behind him as he battles American Shaun Micheel for the HSBC World Match Play Championship. AFP

WORLD MATCHPLAY FINAL

Micheel, Casey forge duel

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND—SHAUN MICHEEL must be wondering if fate is on his side at the World Match Play Championship.

He was the last to qualify for the 16-man field at Wentworth. He was the first player in two months to beat Tiger Woods. And after defeating another European Ryder Cup player, Micheel suddenly stood one match away from the richest prize in golf.

Destiny?

"You have to feel that way," Micheel said Saturday after a 2-up victory over Robert Karlsson. "I don't know if destiny is the right word, but I've been gaining a lot of confidence each day. Beating Tiger can't do anything to hurt you."

The lone support in the English crowd comes from his wife, Stephanie, who is four months' pregnant and has walked every hole of every match. The last time she was pregnant was in 2003, when Micheel captured the PGA Championship at Oak Hill.

"It would make for a good story," Micheel said.

Paul Casey has his own script in mind after plowing through Colin Montgomerie, 6 and 5.

Micheel and Casey will play the championship match with $1.87 million going to the winner, the biggest payoff of any official tournament.

"I've never had the opportunity to play for that much money before," Casey said, who could go to No. 1 in the Order of Merit on the European Tour with a win. "Where else can we win a million pounds? Unless we get on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,' and I can't answer those questions. So this is the best opportunity I've got."

Micheel only got this opportunity by finishing second to Woods by five shots at the PGA Championship, which made him eligible for the World Match Play Championship based on performance in the majors. Then he knocked out Woods in the first round, ending his five-tournament winning streak, and breezed through Luke Donald of England.

The latest victim was his toughest, as Karlsson became the first player this week to take Micheel the distance. Neither player led by more than 2-up the entire day. Micheel pulled ahead for the last time with a par on the 15th hole, then made a 12-foot birdie on the 17th to stay 1 up and was conceded a 4-foot birdie on the 18th after Karlsson failed to get up-and-down from a bunker.

Along with the money, a victory would allow Micheel to get back into the top 50 and qualify for the $7.5 million World Golf Championship in two weeks at The Grove outside London.

All he has to do is beat one more Ryder Cup player in Casey, the most dominant player this week at Wentworth.

Casey now has beaten major champions Retief Goosen and Mike Weir, and eight-time Order of Merit winner Montgomerie without playing more than 33 holes.

Montgomerie was lucky it went that far.

He looked like a part-time player and part-time marshal, barking instructions at fans with their cameras and or walking along the gravel paths that wind through Wentworth. When it came time to hit his shots, they weren't very good.

In one peculiar moment on the 17th green in the morning round, Monty missed a 20-foot birdie putt and stormed off the green, leaving Casey to wonder if that meant his eagle putt had been conceded. Montgomerie's caddie eventually told him to pick it up. *AP*

This time, Ryder Cup pressure's on Europe

STAFFAN, IRELAND—ONE TEAM HAS NEVER enjoyed such depth, with seven players in the top 20 and none lower than No. 52.

The other?

Tough at the top, but carrying four rookies whose names would barely be recognized by their mailman.

It's the same old story at every Ryder Cup, with one delicious twist.

The roles are reversed.

Underdogs no more, all eyes are on Europe to extend this era of dominance over the Americans when the Ryder Cup gets underway on Friday at The K Club in what is expected to be the biggest sporting event ever in Ireland.

The Europeans used to have a chip on their shoulder. Now they hoist a 17-inch gold cup proudly over their heads, having captured the Ryder Cup four of the last five times and seven of the last 10.

Colin Montgomerie, who has won more Ryder Cup points than Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson combined, referred to this European team as the strongest assembled in some time.

Pure fact

And that wasn't a boast.

"No, that's just pure fact," he said. "If (captain) Ian Woosnam had picked all 12, he wouldn't have gotten very far from where we are. We are a good team. We hope to be the first European team to win three times in a row. We'd love to be part of that."

There is nothing to suggest that won't happen.

Two years ago at Oakland Hills, the Europeans embarrassed Woods and Mickelson on their way to an 18½-9½ victory, their largest margin since the Ryder Cup began in 1927. The time before that, they hammered the Americans in singles—a US birthright in golf—to win at The Belfry.

Never mind that the Americans counter with a 1-2-3 punch of Woods, Jim Furyk and Mickelson, the top three players in the world ranking. Or that Americans have captured 20 of the last 28 major championships since their last Ryder Cup victory in 1999.

World beater

Raise the flags, play the national anthems, and Europe turns into a world beater.

"This year, we are definitely the underdogs," Woods said.

It could lead to some interesting dynamics over three days of golf's most intense competition.

Europe long has rallied around the perceptions that its players are inferior, and that its tour is like a second-class citizen. They have played the underdog card for so long, and so effectively, that they now are trying to convince everyone they have no chance.

Having won seven of the last 10 times, it hasn't been easy.

"I think the US team is up for it," Padraig Harrington said. "They're going to go in with the same attitude that Europe has gone into the two times, trying to prove a point."

That's not the only turnaround.

Team spirit appears to be strong in the US camp. The 12 players took a charter flight to Ireland at the end of August for two days of practice at The K Club and general goofing around. *AP*

32 squads sign up for Interclub badminton

THIRTY-TWO TEAMS LED BY DEFENDING champion Centro Atletico and 2004 titlist The Zone are competing in the 2006 Battle of the Courts: National Interclub badminton championship starting next month.

Team managers and coaches recently drew their respective groupings for the three eliminations legs with top seed Centro Atletico heading the Leg 1 cast and No. 3 The Zone the Leg 3 roster in the country's biggest interclub competition.

Valle Verde, the No. 3 seed, leads the Leg 2 entries of the Battle of Courts presented by INQUIRER BADMINTON, Rush Fitness Water and Mizuno.

This year's battle is also supported by Duty Free Philippines, Unilever and Gerflor Taraflex.

Joining Centro in Leg 1 on Oct. 7-8 at the Playground courts in Las Piñas is the host venue, The Palms Country Club, Peregrine, Buddies BC, Myan's, Philippine National Police, Biñan BC, Alabang Racquet Club and Badminton Sports Center.

Grouped with Valle Verde and host Club 650 for the second leg on Oct. 14-15 are Badminton Central Makati, Ace BC, Excel Badminton Center, Hardi Court, Celebrity Sports Club, Raq4Cock, Villamor, Manila Polo Club and Smash N'Fun.

Lumped with The Zone and host Las Piñas BC for Leg 3 on Oct. 28-29 are Match Play, Green Park, Quezon City Sports Club, Marikina Badminton Center, Leap & Smash, RSC/Premier, Team Meralco, Club Badminton and South Smash.

The top four teams of each leg will advance to the grand finals where the winner will be rewarded with a holiday to a choice destination anywhere in the Philippines.

Appliances from Duty Free Phils., Mizuno badminton products are also set to be given away during the eliminations and the finals.

Mindworks is organizing this year's edition of the Battle of the Courts for INQUIRER BADMINTON.

Yankees prove they're more than just baseball's 'paper tigers'

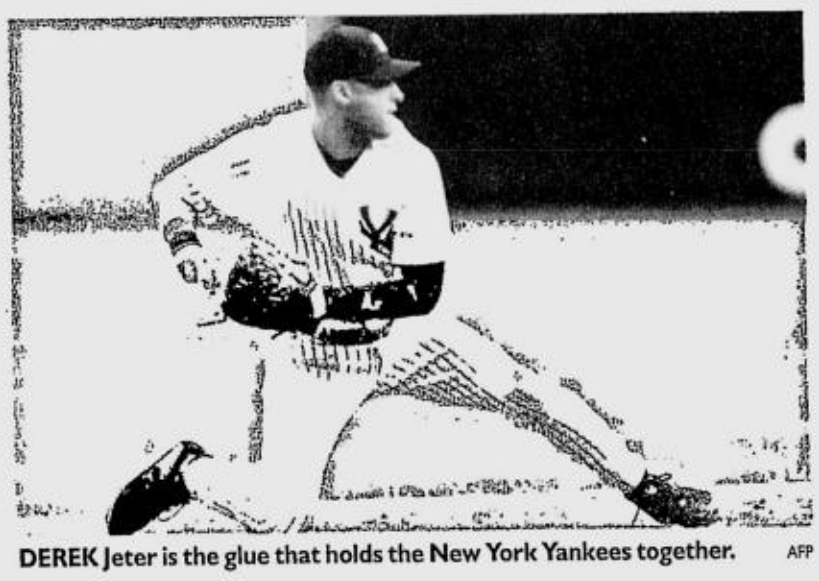
NEW YORK—AS THE ADAGE SAYS, championships are not won on paper. But the New York Yankees, far and away baseball's best team on paper, should be more than a paper tiger this October.

In fact, the Yankees should win their first World Series of the 21st century, and it might be accomplished as tidily as the Red Sox's 2004 sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals.

"In the end, it always comes down to pitching," said Red Sox reliever Mike Timlin, who won two championships with Toronto and one with Boston. "[The Yankees] have an excellent lineup. They have proven starters and they obviously have one of the greatest closers in history."

The Yankees are not just formidable in that area. They're downright scary. The Yankees will go with Chien-Ming Wang, a legitimate Cy Young candidate, Randy Johnson, and Mike Mussina as their top three in the postseason.

"We expect to go to the World Series," said a confident Johnny Damon following yesterday afternoon's 5-2 loss and before the Yankees' 7-5 victory in the nightcap. "Anything less than that would be very disappointing."



DEREK Jeter is the glue that holds the New York Yankees together. AFP

It's also hard to imagine a pitching staff muting the Yankee offense.

"Hitting is contagious, and it starts at the top," said Boston hitting coach Ron Jackson. "When you have a guy like Johnny, who works the count, wears down the pitcher, and just plays the game so hard, everybody feeds off that."

This is a team held together by the odds-on favorite to be the league's Most Valuable Player—Derek Jeter, who was the glue in early July when the Yankees dropped four games behind the Red Sox.

It is indeed the "uber team" Theo Epstein spoke of in Boston the last time the Sox played the Yankees. And they are out to prove, and probably will, that they have the roar of a tiger, not a paper tiger. NYTimes News Service

Northwoods sweeps past Mimosa

ROYAL NORTHWOODS FROLICKED on its home course as it swept Mimosa, 4-0, in their home-and-away duel in the 2006 Federation Golf League in San Rafael, Bulacan, last week.

Sixto Sengson and Kim Chang Hoi outplayed Mimosa's Senen Quiambao and Joe Cruz, 6 and 5, to trigger the sweep.

Brian Donato and Omar Dungca also whipped Michael Moon and Yoshihiko Sato, 6 and 4. Gov. Tomas Joson and partner Lee Hyun Jin stamped their class over Val Consunji and Richard Umbarger, 7 and 6.

Rodel Mangulabnan and Boy Unson capped the 2004 champion Royal Northwoods' romp with a 3 and 2 victory over Simandl Wolf and Tom Britt.

The 4-0 victory enabled Royal Northwoods, the reigning Ford National Team Shootout champion, to seize the lead in Group 3 after seven rounds of the three-division tournament featuring 15 member-clubs of the Federation Golf League.

Top Esguerra bets frolic at San Lazaro

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—SIMPLY OVERPOWERING.

Entries from the Hermie Esguerra stables outclassed their rivals in three different stakes races yesterday punctuated by a 1-2 finish by Macho Man and Pacman in the Colts' division of the Juvenile Stakes at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Golden Sutter, a two-year-old chestnut colt, prevailed in the P450,000 PCSO Special Maiden race while Condoleeza pulled off a runaway victory in the Fillies' division to complete the big day for Esguerra.

Ace rider Jonathan Hernandez drove Macho Man hard in the final straight to nip stablemate Pacman by a length and climax a rewarding afternoon for Esguerra, who bankrolled a total of P2.334 million for the victories of his chargers.

Each win in the Juvenile Series was worth P720,000, while Pacman's second place was for P270,000.

"They were results of the hard work everyone in the team, from the trainers, jockeys to the grooms, have been turning in," the businessman-sportsman told the INQUIRER.

He added that all three stakes winners are being conditioned by different trainers—Tito Alvarez (Condoleeza), Bojie Fernandez (Golden Sutter) and Jojie Panlilio (Macho Man).

Sent off as the outstanding favorites in the Colts' race, coupled entries Macho Man and Pacman found themselves running neck-and-neck entering the final straight as Hernandez's mount got the better of Pacman and Louie Balboa in a heated battle that was wildly applauded.

Superamerica, the first-leg winner ridden by Fernando Raquel, arrived third about three lengths behind for P150,000.

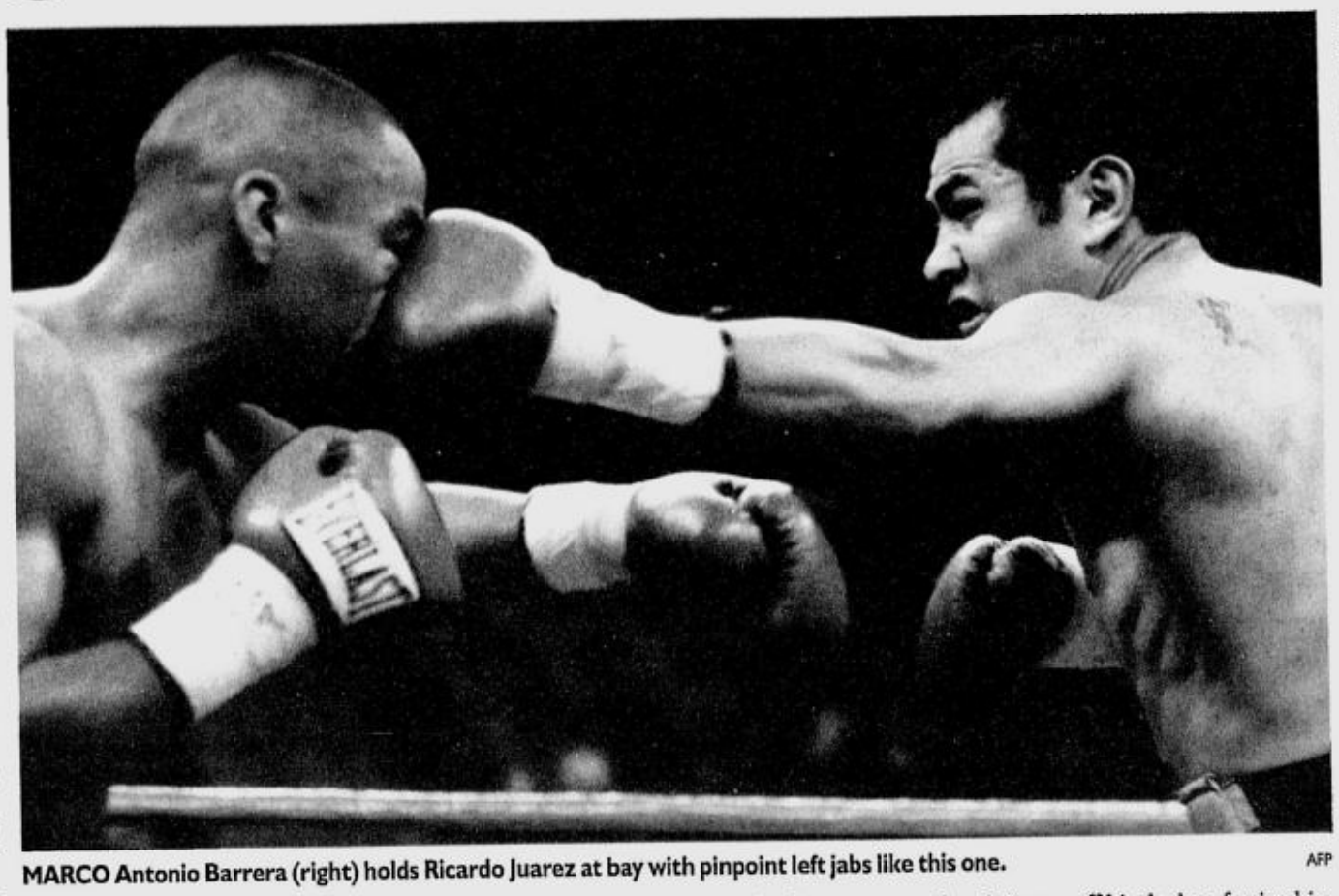
Condoleeza, the poor third placer in the first leg, rallied with a lot of steam entering the far turn under Jessie Guce to prevail by more than 10 lengths over longshot Lancia Stratos in the Fillies' division, clocking a solid 1:35 broken down to 18, 25', 25, 26' also over 1,500 meters.

That victory set the tables up for the sweet sweep for Esguerra, who also booked a regular race win earlier courtesy of Triple Crown leg champion Don Exequiel.

GETTING READY: Martina Hingis skips during a practice session ahead of the Sunfeast Open tennis tournament in India. AFP

'Boring' Barrera retains crown

LAS VEGAS—MARCO ANtonio Barrera knew what Rocky Juarez didn't at the conclusion of their close match four months ago. He knew the real Barrera was not in Los Angeles that night.



MARCO Antonio Barrera (right) holds Ricardo Juarez at bay with pinpoint left jabs like this one. AFP

Unfortunately for Juarez, the real Barrera was at the MGM Grand Garden last night, and he was there to box. The 32-year-old Barrera administered a one-sided boxing lesson to Juarez as he cruised to a boringly competent unanimous decision to retain the World Boxing Council super featherweight title.

Judge Hubert Minn scored the fight, 117-111, and Chuck Giampa and Dave Moretti both had it 115-113, all for Barrera.

The fight was a technical masterpiece as Barrera fought exactly where he wanted the fight to be contested. When he wanted to be in the center of the ring, they were there. When he wanted to rest on the ropes, over they went. Juarez dictated nothing as he followed Barrera around the ring as if he were attached to him by a tether.

"I gave him a boxing lesson and that's exactly what I intended to do," said Barrera (63-4, 42 KOs). "I learned never to fight on the level of my opponent. I'm the champion."

There was little doubt about that, although Juarez (25-3, 18 KOs) tried to claim he was the aggressor and had done better than in their first match, which was a 1-point win for Barrera. This can be excused because he had only one eye to see out of after Barrera jabbed his right eyelid closed.

"He didn't want to fight," Juarez said.

No, he wanted to box. Barrera did whatever he wanted from the opening bell, avoiding the kind of clashes that nearly allowed Juarez to beat him in the first meeting. This time, Barrera left the ring without any sign he'd been in a 12-round confrontation.

The first half of the fight was a tactical battle, controlled primarily by Barrera's left jab. He used it not only as a range finder but also to knock Juarez off his rhythm, forcing him to slow his forward motion and cover up.

Juarez had promised to be more aggressive early in the fight, something he felt cost him in May. But he was unable to find a comfortable punching distance to be aggressive and spent most of the first six rounds following Barrera and seldom catching him. Neither man did any significant damage but Barrera was dictating the distance and was limiting Juarez's opportunities to get inside. When Juarez tried to get inside, he most often caught a hard jab or a short left hook to the forehead.

The crowd began to boo loudly during the seventh and eighth rounds as Barrera's movement seemed to stymie Juarez, who spent much of each round on his toes, bouncing up and down. Barrera, meanwhile, was fighting at the pace he wanted, slowly and in the center of the ring, where Juarez would have trouble getting to him.

By the final two rounds, the right side of Juarez's face had begun to swell from the champion's left jab and a purple contusion had begun to form. That was not the worst of it, however. The worst was that he began to realize what Barrera likely knew four months ago, that the real Barrera was in the ring last night.

In the semi-main event, WBC super bantamweight champion Israel Vasquez (41-3, 30 KOs) stopped tough Jhonny Gonzalez at 2:09 of the 10th round with a thudding right-left-right combination that ended a night of punishment for both men. Vasquez was dropped twice and the left side of his face was badly swollen and bruised, while Gonzalez (33-5, 28 KOs) also hit the floor twice and suffered what appeared to be a broken nose that bled constantly from early on.

Joan Guzman won a split decision for the World Boxing Organization junior lightweight title, which was vacated when champion Jorge Barrios couldn't make the weight limit. *NY Times News Service*

WOMEN WORLDS

US, Australia, France triumph

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—CANDACE Parker scored 16 points and Tina Thompson and Diana Taurasi added 13 each as the United States steamrolled Cuba, 90-50, to open the second round of the women's world basketball championship on Saturday.

Brazil got 18 points from Iziane, and veteran Janeth snapped out of a slump to add 14 as the home team pounded Lithuania, 84-67.

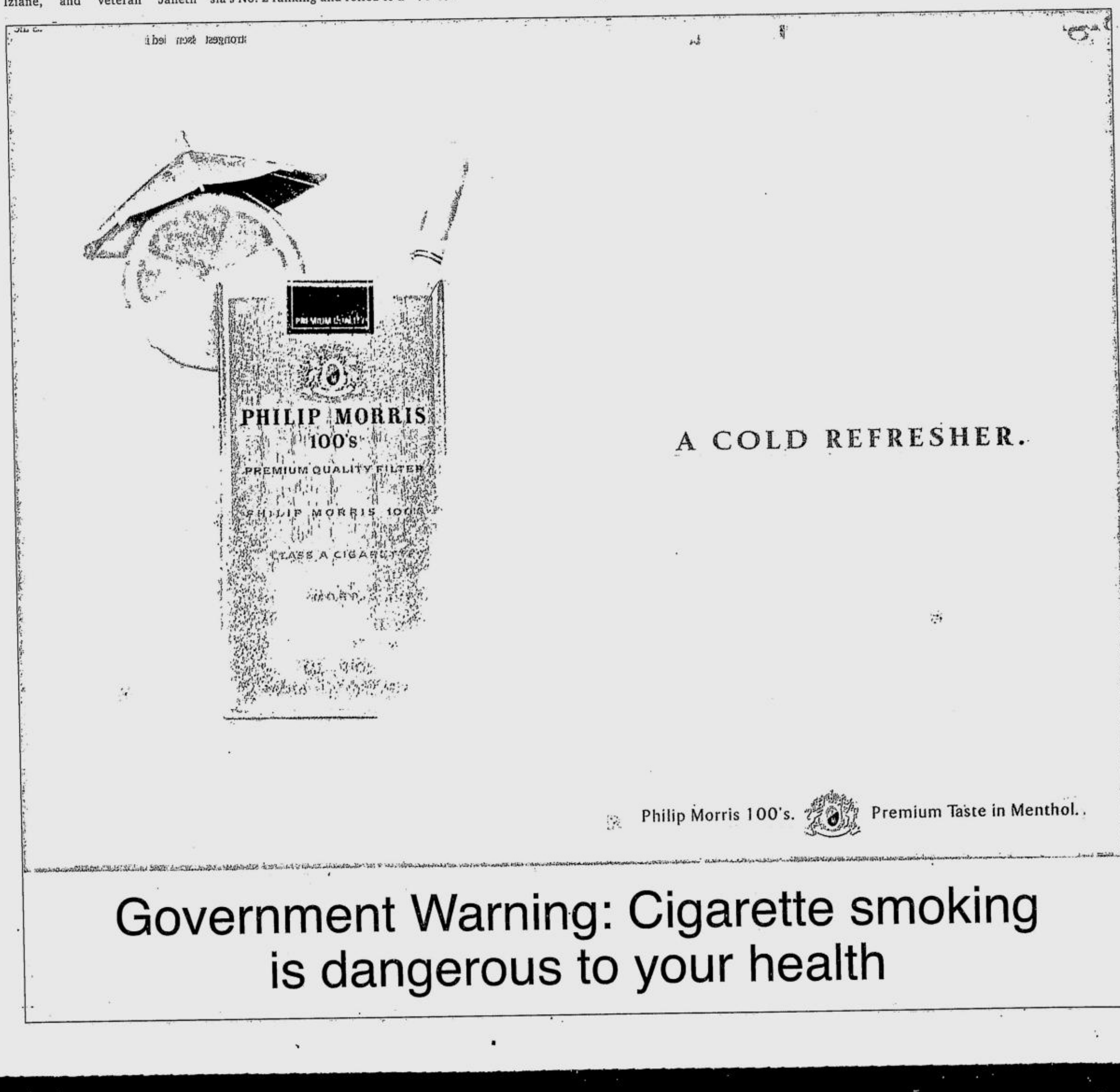
Australia nipped Spain 72-68, and Gisela Vega again led Argentina, scoring 14 in a 62-58 win over Canada.

France took no notice of Russia's No. 2 ranking and rolled to a 74-64 win, with 16 points from Nathalie Lesdema.

Also, the Czech Republic downed China 79-73, led by 21 points from Eva Viteckova.

In games for minor placings, Taiwan defeated Nigeria 81-77, and South Korea downed Senegal 75-69. *AP*

WATER MAGIC Japan's synchronized swimmers seem to levitate as they perform during the team technical routine event at the FINA Synchronized Swimming World Cup in Yokohama, south of Tokyo. REUTERS



SPORTS

Miole-Guangko posts Scramble low

THE TANDEMS OF HECTOR MIOLE-Manfred Guangko, Benny Boon Hoong-Efren Cruz and Avelino Beltran-Jose Cristi ruled their respective divisions in the Mizuno Scramble Golf Classic played over the weekend at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Miole and Guangko returned the lowest round so far in the series of nine-under 63 at the Norman course to score a two-shot victory over Arnold Jumalon and Peping Nepomuceno.

That 63 surpassed the low scores of 65 posted by Pong Manuel-Erwin Vinluan and Adrian Mauricio-Matthew Mendoza in the Valley and Sherwood Hills legs, respectively.

Hoong and Cruz took the Division II crown while Beltran teamed up with Cristi to clinch the Division III plum in the event organized by Mizuno through Master Sports Corp..

All three winners earned the right to represent Eagle Ridge in the finals next year at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course in Laguna.

The Mizuno Scramble Classic is also co-sponsored by The Benner at the Riviera, Casino Filipino/Pagcor, BMW Philippines and Philippine Airlines. The other sponsors are Citibank, Mail& More, Renee Barbier Wines, Discovery Suites, Pepsi, Gatorade, BMG Solar, Power Bar, Oakley, Citgo, C-Lium Fibre, Inquirer Golf and Golf Digest Phils.

It was a double celebration for the winners as the competition also served as the regular monthly tournament.

Hoong-Cruz assembled a 67 and finished three shots ahead of Florencio Ylescupidez and Marcelino Liabo while Cristi and Beltran conspired for a 73 and won by two over Eli Escolar and Edgardo Ho.

New Milo 21K champs emerge from C. de Oro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY— New and young champions took over the running throne in the Cagayan de Oro City leg of the 30th National Milo Marathon at the Pelaez Sports Center here yesterday.

Crifrankreadel Indapa, who used to campaign in the 5K run in previous years, and Cecile Topia topped the men's and women's 21K race to secure the top prize of P10,000 and head the six qualifiers to the national finals in December.

The 21-year-old Indapa clocked one hour, 13 minutes and five seconds, beating 22-year-old Salvador Bolivar III (1:14:14) and third placer Pedro Pujas (1:14:39) of the Oro Sunday Runners Club.

Last year's men's winner Arnold Unabia did not finish the race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

The 20-year-old Topia, who placed third the last two years, took advantage of the absence of last year's winner Helen Tacling and 2004 champion Aileen Tolentino, who had already topped the tough 42-K elimination race in Metro Manila last July 16.

Topia of Pagadian City won in 1:32:17. Warlyn Bucala, 20, was second (1:43:14) and Jeralyn Dadios, 22, placed third (2:15:01).

CRIFRANKREADEL Indapa breasts the tape at the finish line in Cagayan de Oro City. Indapa qualified to the national finals.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno fired the gun that sent off the 9,972 participants in the 21K, 5K and Kiddies 3K races.

Also gracing the awarding ceremonies were Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong, Milo brand manager Michelle Calo and Nestle regional sales manager Trina Abola.

The 20th stage of the 30-leg nationwide elimination runs will be held in Tarlac City next week.

Alsado, Porras ahead

RODEL ALSADO AND FRANCISCO Porras disposed of their rivals over the weekend as they led the way in their respective divisions of the Mindanao leg of the 2006 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at SM Davao in Davao City.

The ninth-ranked Alsado, of Carmen National High School, downed Jay Himarancan, Bruce Duque, Dillon Intila and Jay Sombilon to tie Brene Parreño and Randolph Dalauta for the lead going into the last three rounds of the Swiss system tournament in the juniors division.

Parreño, of University of Mindanao, and Dalauta, of Corpus Christi School, also trounced their four rivals.

The top-seeded Porras, also of Carmen National HS, won over Cruise Globasa, Charlotte Doble, Leo Canaleja and John Acedo in the 14-under kiddies division.

Eighteen others also posted the same number of victories.

SPORTS WATCH

SJC Circuit derby starts

THE SHOWDOWN OF provincial cockfighting champions will spice up the SJC Circuit 5-Stag Derby series today at San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The first of 75 fights start at 3 p.m., said promoter Ronnie Lacsina. The event comes on the heels of two blockbuster stagfests last week: the SJC 1st Anniversary 6- stag derby (with 102 entries) and the Bigtime 5-stag derby (93 fights). Thirty-two circuit members from Pangasinan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Zambales, Laguna, Batangas and other provinces are taking part, said Lacsina. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-6563.

PCAP stag series today

EIGHTY MATCHES are on the roster in the third leg of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby series which kicks off today at the Makati Coliseum. Action in the derby sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace starts at 4 p.m. Top rated entries will be fielded today by Boy Marzo, Rainier Kau, Jake Macasaet, Gov. Tony Kho and Rey Briones, Efren Canlas, Emil Chua, Biboy Enriquez, Arman Santos, Gov. Ito Ynares and Gen-Gen Arayata. Meanwhile, the next PCAP events have been scheduled for Oct. 2, 9, 16, 21 and 28. For inquiries, call the Makati Coliseum at 896-3545 or 895-6475.

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- The 1st ever World Cup of Pool in Newport, South Wales (in tandem with Francisco "Django" Bustamante), August 2006
- The 1st IPT World Open 8-ball Championships in Reno, Nevada, September 2006

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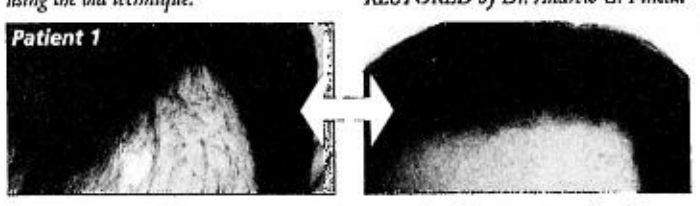

Before Hair Transplant at Dr. Andrew G. Pineda's Clinic.

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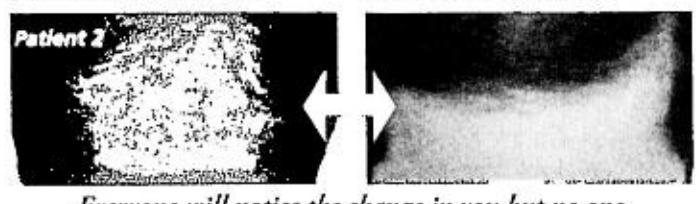
Patient 2



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S&P hints at credit-rating upgrade for RP

Notes gains in economy, gov't fiscal position

By Michelle V. Remo

INTERNATIONAL RATINGS FIRM STANDARD & POOR'S has acknowledged strides in the Philippines' economic environment, hinting at a possible upgrade of the outlook or credit rating for the country if reforms continued to pull the debt level down.

S&P said in a report that the Philippines' gross domestic product growth, which hit 5.6 percent year-on-year in the first half, exceeded expectations and happened despite tightness in government spending.

It noted that the growth was anchored on the strong performance of the export sector, mainly due to the high global demand for electronics, and the recovery of the agriculture sector.

Developments in the country's fiscal sector was also highlighted, with S&P lauding the commitment of fiscal authorities to stick to the target of a zero budget deficit by 2008.

"The outlook and rating on the Philippines could benefit if fiscal and public sector reforms, including privatization of the electricity sector, become sufficiently entrenched to effect a material decline in government debt, easing external vulnerability," S&P credit analyst Agos Bernard said.

In the first seven months of the year, the national government's budget deficit hit P48.5 billion. This was equivalent to only 39 percent of the P125-billion full-year deficit limit set by fiscal authorities for 2006.

The government's declining budget deficit somehow eased its borrowing requirements, allowing a slight drop in

S&P HINTS/ B2

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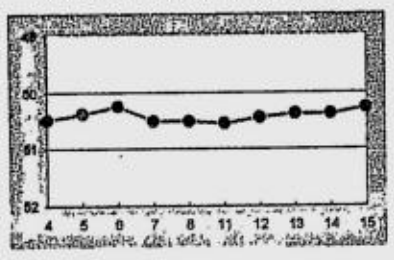

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per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 15, 2006

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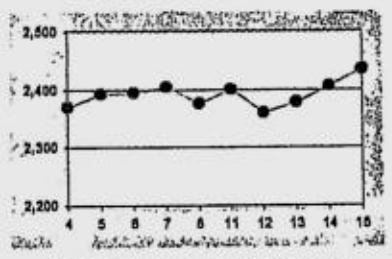

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Bullish trading seen

STOCK MARKET TRADING IS EXPECTED to remain bullish as falling oil prices, robust overseas Filipino workers' remittances and continued improvement in the government's fiscal position point to better corporate earnings, traders said.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) said it surpassed its P67.8-billion tax collection goal in August by P1 billion. World oil prices dropped over the weekend, hitting a near six-month low in New York, after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) said world oil demand was weaker than expected in the first half of 2006.

Reacting to the slew of good news, the local stock market breached a psychological 2,400-2,415 mark for the first time in almost four months and looked like it might pierce a new resistance before the third quarter ends, AB Capital Securities said in its weekly report to clients.

Analysts pegged the market's next resistance at between 2,480 and 2,550 after the index closed at 2,434.86 on Friday. The index gained 57 points or 2.4 percent last week.

The market's performance was also aided by reports of a stronger peso at 50.27 to a dollar last week and a buying shift to blue chips from speculative stocks, AB Capital added.

"The dichotomy between an appreciating peso against the backdrop of a single-digit benchmark interest rate environment supports reasons why funds are being drawn to the Philippines, given fiscal and monetary authorities' resolve to break the sequence of budget deficits," 2TradeAsia.com also said in a weekly note.

AB Capital noted that commodities-related stocks felt the brunt of lower oil and gold

BULLISH/ B3

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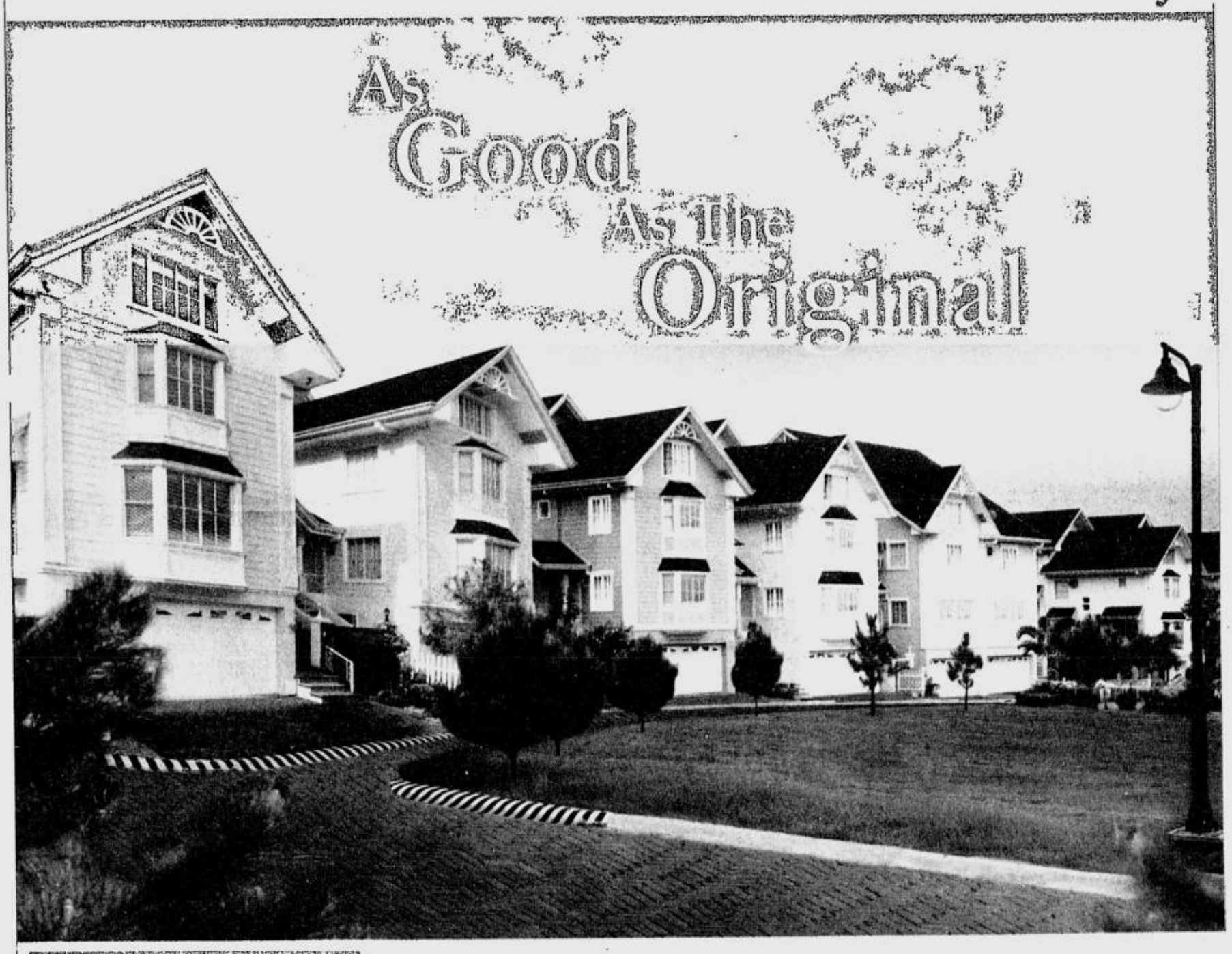

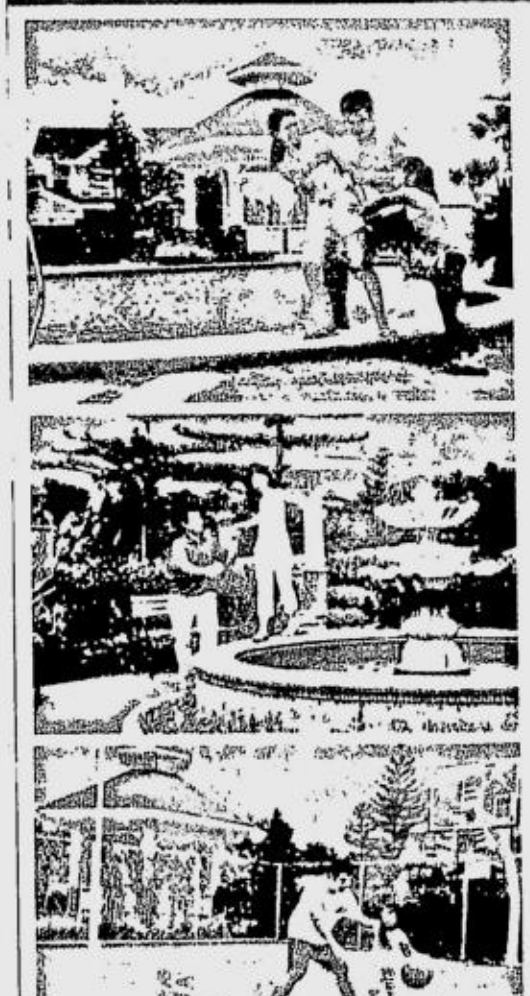

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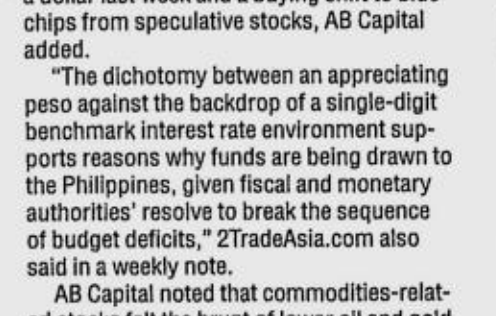

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S&P hints at credit-rating upgrade for RP

From page B1

its outstanding debt. Documents from the Department of Finance showed that the national government's debt stock dropped to P3.998 trillion in June from P4.017 trillion in May.

The credit-rating firm, however, said efforts of the Philippine government to significantly trim down its debts were being challenged by setbacks in the privatization of state-owned power assets. These has left the government still faced with problems on huge contingent liabilities, or debts of state-owned firms that carry a sovereign guarantee.

S&P said implementation of several revenue-raising measures boosted sentiment on the Philippines. It cautioned though that sustainability of these reforms was essential if the Philippines wanted improvements in its credit standing.

"If, however, the process (of improving the fiscal environment) lapses, or becomes derailed by political imperatives, the outlook could again come under downward pressure," Bernard said.

The credit-rating agency downgraded in January its rating on the Philippines by a notch to BB-, or three notches below investment grade, citing political turbulence then and uncertainty of the progress of fiscal reforms.

"Both the fiscal and political landscapes, however, have seen marked improvement recently. In addition, the major strength of the Philippines' credit position, its external liquidity, is continuing to improve in excess of expectations," S&P's Bernard said.

S&P's outlook on the Philippines currently stands at "stable," which means the Philippines is not likely to experience a credit-rating downgrade in the short term.

Economic officials were hoping developments on the fiscal front would finally merit an upgrade in the country's credit rating.

An upgrade in the credit rating, which investors and creditors use as a guide in making business decisions, could help lower interest rates on Philippine bonds, and in turn reduce the cost of the government's borrowings. A rating upgrade reflects an improvement in a country's creditworthiness.

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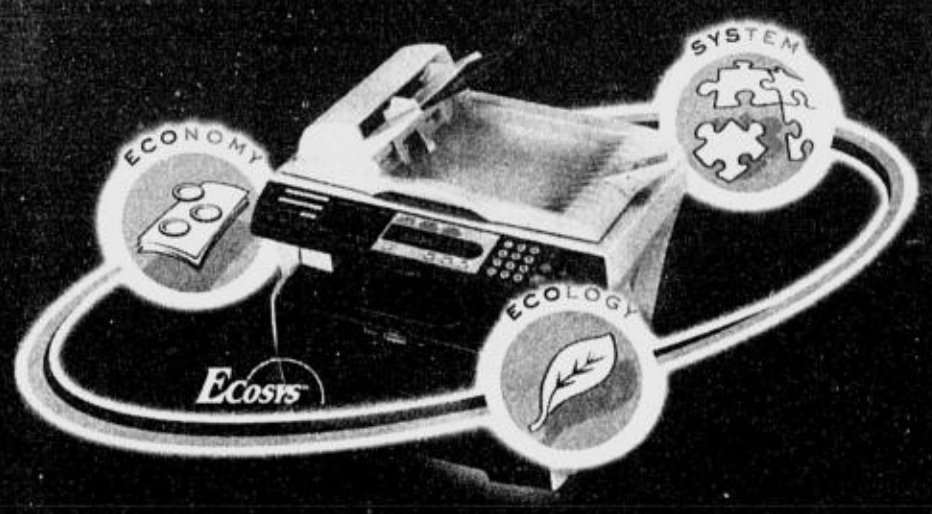

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Ricoh (Philippines) Inc
Ringier Trade Publishing Ltd
Romma Electronics Industry Corp
Ronrox Corporation
RPS Co., Ltd
RS Components Limited
S Binding Supplies, Inc.
Samchin Cold Water Machines Ltd
Sanko Plastics Philippines, Inc.
Sanmi Corporation
Schy-Tech Enterprises
SEA Olympus Marketing Inc.
Seco Mitsui Trucks Parts Co
Secomp Inc.
Seho Seitz & Hohnerlein GmBH
Seksui Jushi Phils., Group
Shang Ta Chia Industrial Co., Ltd.
Shanghai Huali-Graphic Equips Co.
Shanghai Junzheng Mach Eqpt Co
Shantou Anping Foodstuff Packing
Shantou Soe First Polyester Film Co
Shantou Yuedong Mech Factory Co.
Sherma Resources
Shen II Enterprises
Shoketsu SMC Corporation
Silcon Exponents Corporation
Sintec Keramik GmbH & Co. KG
Sintron Systems Inc.
SIS Engineering Ltd., Partnership
Smartpack Philippines Corporation
SMC Corporation Limited
SMT (Straits Metal Tech Pte Ltd.)
Softex Co Ltd.
Space Lab Enterprises
Star Plastics Products
Suryo Plastics Industrial Co., Ltd.
Sumitomo Heavy Inds Modern Ltd.
Sumitomo Metal Mining Co.
T.A.T. Industries
Taguchi Philippines Inc.
Taiwan Assn of Machinery Industry
Taiwan Machinery
Taiwan Sunree Plastic Mach Co., Ltd
TAT Industries
Taytan International Corporation
TDI International, Inc.
Technical Devices
TechNova Imaging Systems Ltd.
Techspray, LP/Plato Products
Teco Group, Taian (Subic) Electric
Tecre Co., Inc.
Tekmar Technical Marketing Ltd.
Tesa Tape Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
TGRAF, Team Graphics
The Green Book
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Thermo Niton Corp.
Tian You Industry & Trade Co., Ltd.
TNT Express Worldwide (Phils.) Inc
Toolec Inc
Topbest Printing Corporation
Touch Art Digital Design
Toyo Living Co., Ltd.
TPC Industrial Automation Corp
TPC Mechatronics Corporation
TPT International Inc.
Transtech Phils
Tria SPA
Tritanics Technology Philippines, Inc
Tuthill Vacuum & Blower Systems
Ubix Corporation
Union Officine Meccaniche S.P.A
U-Tech Machinery Co., Ltd.
Vacation Club International
Value Pro International
Vanguard Systems, Inc.
Veemelco, Inc
Versatrade Marketing
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Visual Communications
V-Tech Barcode Systems Phils., Inc.
W.M. Manufacturing Inc.
Wan Ming Machinery Ind'l Co., Ltd.
Webcontrol Machinery Corporation
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Western Dynamic Resource, Co
Wie-Technology Automation Co., Ltd.
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Xiamen Xingyatai Plastic Ind Co
Yamada Corporation
Yamaha Fine Technologies Co., Ltd
Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd
Yann Bang Electrical Mach Co., Ltd.
Yeo Plastics Trading Corporation
Yi Chang Machinery Co., Ltd
Ying Lin Machine Industrial Co., Ltd
Yo Den Enterprises Co., Ltd
Yuyao Baoma Printing Equip Co. Ltd
Zebra Technologies
Zenith International Phils Inc.
Zenna S E A Co. Ltd.
Zhejiang Huangyan Hangyu Mold Fty
Zhejiang Huangyan North Mould Fty
Zhejiang Tianfeng Plastic Machinery
Zuiko Philippines Inc
And Many More

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS & PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS
SEMINARS BY THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR PRINT EXCELLENCE, INC. (PCPE)
SEPTEMBER 20
2:00 - 4:00 Theory and Application of Digital PrePress by Freddie Ilelo. B&W COMMERCIAL
4:30 - 6:30 Image Enhancement & Color Correction in the Printing Work Flow by Freddie Ilelo. B&W COMM'L.
SEPTEMBER 21
3:00 - 5:00 SIEG WERK PACKAGING /ASA COLOR - Emerging UV Ink Technologies by Alma Leoncio, Technical Manager
SEPTEMBER 22
1:30 - 2:30 HEIDELBERG - PrePress Integration by Randy Escudero, PrePress & Consumable Solutions Product Manager
2:30 - 3:30 HEILDELBERG - Tips & Tricks in Printing Operations by Adnan Litonia, Press Solutions Product Manager
3:30 - 4:30 HEIDELBERG - Enhancing Productivity & Efficiency in Postpress by Noel Soquerata, Postpress Solutions Product Manager
4:30 - 5:30 HEIDELBERG - Tips &Tricks in Superdot Pressroom Consumables by John Harper, Consumable Solutions Assistant Product Mgr
SEPTEMBER 20
2:00 - 2:45 DAC INDUST'L ELECTRONICS - Introduction to Delta Automation Products & PLC "DMC Solutions"
2:00 - 2:45 FLUKE SOUTH EAST ASIA PTE. LTD. Fluke Power Quality Analysis & Basic Thermography
3:00 - 3:45 INCA PLASTICS PHILIPPINES, INC. - The Tech of Modular & Mobile Sewage Treatment Plants
3:00 - 3:45 KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Minimizing Energy Consumption and Achieving Savings in Compressed Air Production
4:00 - 5:45 POWER SPEAK, INC. - Personal Awareness & Leadership Seminar by Mr. Joey P. Reyes Trainer
SEPTEMBER 21
11:00 - 11:45 MATTEN TECH. - Membrane Bioreactor
2:00 - 2:45 V-TECH BARCODE SYSTEMS PHILS., INC. - Thermal Transfer Applications in Indus'l Automation
3:00 - 3:45 KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Planning for the Most Energy-Efficient & Optimum Compressed Air Station
4:00 - 4:45 UBIX CORP. - The BizHub Color-Series: For Short-Run On Demand Full Color Printing
SEPTEMBER 22
11:00 - 11:45 QES (ASIA PACIFIC) SDN. BHD- Meeting the Challenge of Latest IEC Guidelines on ROHS/WEEE by Ramar Castro, Reg. Mktg. Mgr.
1:00 - 1:45 MONARK EQUIPT. - CECCATO: Cost Efficient Compressed Air Sys. Reliability
2:00 - 3:45 V-TECH BARCODE SYSTEMS PHILS., INC. - Barcoding Solution for Industrial Automation
3:00 - 3:45 KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Minimizing Energy Consumption & Achieving Savings in Compressed Air Production
4:00 - 4:45 GAKKEN PHILS. - The Money-Making ABC's of Quick Print Business
4:00 - 4:45 IDEC-IZUMI ASIA PTE - IDEC PLC & Touch Screen
4:00 - 4:45 MAXIMUM SOLUTIONS CORP. - Energy Efficient Alternative Cooling Sys.
5:00 - 5:45 JG SUMMIT PETROCHEMICALS CORP. - Evalene Forum: Everything You've Wanted about Evalene PE and PP
5:00 - 5:45 KIMBERLY-CLARK PROF'L - Wiper Workshop
SEPTEMBER 23
3:00 - 3:45 GLOBUS INC. - Color Management Seminar
3:00 - 3:45 KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Planning for the Most Energy-Efficient and Optimum Compressed Air Station
4:00 - 4:45 GAKKEN PHILS. - Pre-Press Right on your Desktop
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Saturday, October 14
Module 2
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RP seeks relief from EU

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES IS seeking trade compensation from the European Commission (EC) following the loss of preferential tariffs on its tuna exports to new member-states of the European Union (EU).

Elevating its petition before the World Trade Organization, the Philippine tuna industry led by the Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines Inc. (TCAP) and the Socksargen Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries Inc. said the country needed to be compensated by the EC as its trade losses resulted in gains for the trading block.

"The Philippines has lost some preferential treatment on tariffs from the 10 new members of the EU, who now had to standardize their tariff schedules to MFN (Most Favored Nation) rates at 24 percent duty on our tuna exports," according to Francisco Buencamino, executive director of the Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines Inc.

The Philippines is seeking compensation similar to what Thailand got.

Thailand—one of Asean's biggest tuna exporters—has recently been allowed by the WTO to export 1,800 metric tons of canned tuna at zero duty.

Philippine frozen and canned exports to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Cyprus, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Poland used to be slapped tariffs of only 2.5 to 3.5 percent.

Local exporters of both frozen and canned tuna now have to export at 24 percent since these countries became members of the EU, Buencamino said.

The Philippines has been exporting an average of 9,270 metric tons a year of tuna products to the EU as part of the quota obtained by the country in the WTO Doha Ministerial meeting in 2002.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2550 Series of 2006

Port exceeds tax collection goal

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATANGAS CITY—THE PORT OF BATANGAS has surpassed its August collection target by more than P1.3 billion.

POB collector Grace Caringal said the port collected P4.1 billion in taxes and duties last month, 43 percent more than the target of P2.9 billion.

The collection was also more than double the P2 billion the port collected last year.

She said the higher collection proved that efforts by Bureau of Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales to curb smuggling at the port were starting to pay off.

Caringal said that since January this year, the port has been exceeding its collection target.

Oil importers Pilipinas Shell Corp. and Caltex Phils. again topped the list of taxpayers using the POB.

Caringal noted that the port's cash collection increased dramatically despite the fact that the volume of imported oil dropped by 330,116 metric tons, or more than 40 percent, over the last two years.

She added that the volume of imported non-oil items like car and grains also decreased by almost 100,000 metric tons, or 49 percent, because POB closed down its container port services.

Bullish trading seen

From page B1

prices last week although they bounced off their lows.

Gold prices weakened last week, piercing a $600-an-ounce support after it touched a low of $582.60 last Tuesday.

"Declining global oil prices and (prices of) other precious metals contributed to the fall of gold back to late June 2006 levels. Such a trend resulted in a severe selldown for local mining issues," AB Capital Securities said.

For the week, the mining index fell 53 points 3,999.13. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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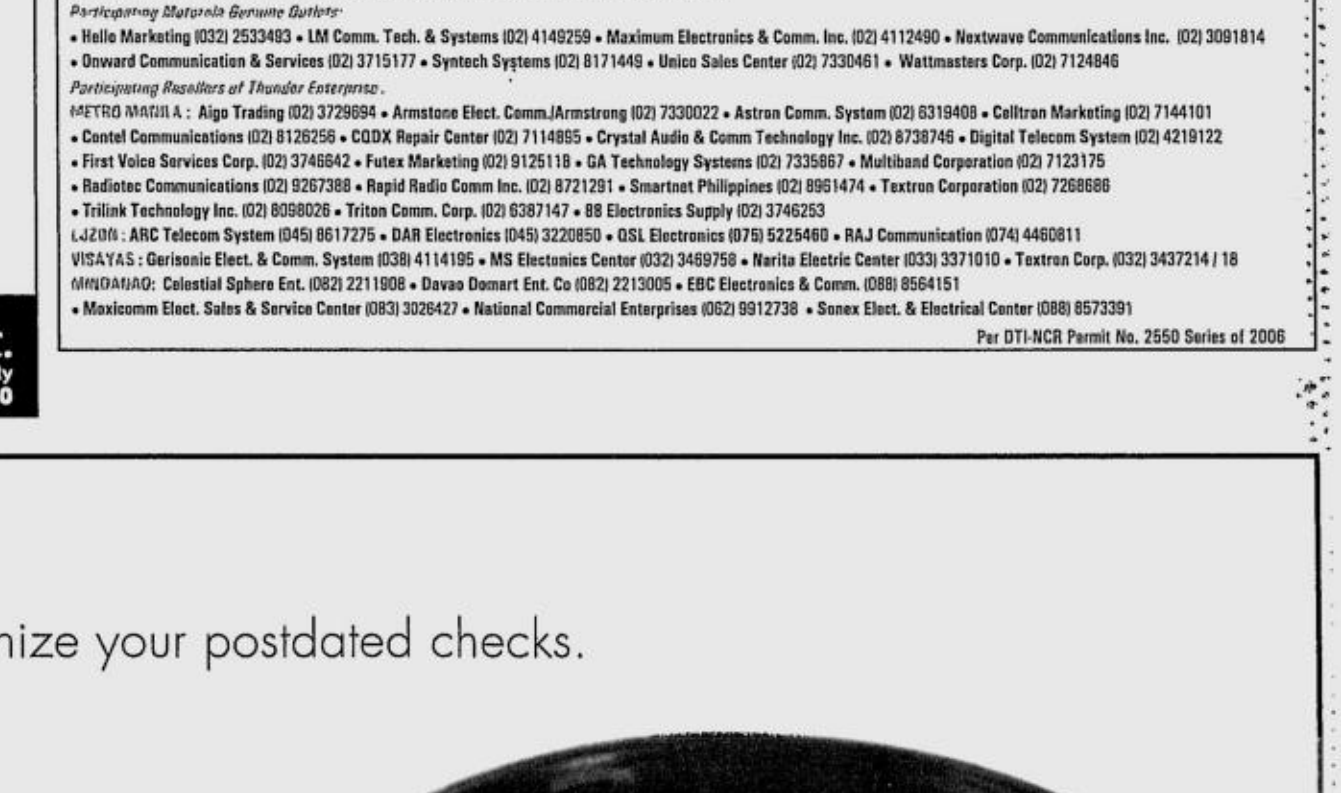

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Megaworld ups capital to P30B

Township developer to expand overseas marketing unit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TOWNSHIP DEVELOPER MEGAWORLD Corp. is increasing its capital to P30.2 billion from P20.2 billion as it goes on an aggressive expansion mode.

In documents filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company said it would ask shareholders on Oct. 3 to increase the company's capital by P10 billion, consisting of 10 billion common shares with a par value of P1 each.

As proof of its aggressive expansion tack, Megaworld chair Andrew Tan said earlier that the company was increasing its international marketing offices, under Megaworld International, by another six offices in the next "few years" in key cities in the United States.

Tan said Megaworld International now has 22 marketing offices in Europe, the United States (largely in California) and Asia.

Sales from its international offices account for roughly 20 percent of the group's total revenues.

He said Megaworld wanted to expand to the East Coast of the United States.

"It presents good opportunities for us, considering the growth in overseas Filipino workers' remittances," Tan said.

In the housing market, Megaworld recently launched an P8.5-billion residential development in Araneta, Cubao, dubbed the Manhattan Garden City, with 9,000 condominium units in 20 residential towers stretching from Aurora Boulevard to P. Tuazon Avenue.

Launched were the initial three towers called Manhattan Parkway which drew a "strong" reaction from home buyers," Tan said.

The company has also committed to build 400,000 square meters of office space for business process outsourcing firms in the next five years, urged by the growth in the sector.

In line with the capital increase, Megaworld will convert all of its four billion unissued preferred shares into common shares.

Common shares have voting rights but holders are the last to receive company dividends.

Preferred shareholders get first crack.

The conversion will result in additional shares available for future offerings as may be set by the company's board of directors.

Currently, the company's authorized capital consists of P20.2 billion or 16.2 billion common shares and four billion preferred

MEGAWORLD/ B6

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As of September 18, 2006

CLUB	SHARES AVAILABLE SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,050,000/1,200,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	500,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	Pls. Call	250,000
Canyon Woods	100,000	-
Capitol Hills	50,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	320,000*/350,000**	Pls. Call*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	100,000/150,000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,500,000
Manila Polo	2,500,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	210,000	170,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/500,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	160,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	100,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**	150,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/190,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,100,000	1,100,000/1,550,000*
Subic Golf	100,000	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/180,000*	-
Valley Golf	220,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	5,200,000

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Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,050,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,050,000
Amaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	500,000	480,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Canlubang	500,000	400,000
Capitol Hills	50,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	80,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	150,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	150,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	240,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	2,900,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	320,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	Please Call
Manila Yacht Club	280,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	170,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	650,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	160,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	125,000
Spa & Lodge	550,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,800,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	280,000
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	150,000
Valley Golf	250,000	200,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,000,000

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CLUB PUNTA FUEGO.....400K	EAGLERIDGE B.....PLS. CALL
COUNTRY CLUB@TAGAYTAY.....310K	EAGLERIDGE C.....300K
EAGLERIDGE B.....280K	LUISITA GOLF IND.....260K
EAGLERIDGE C.....330K	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB.....160K
FOREST HILLS A.....120K	MANILA GOLF CORP.....PLS. CALL
MANILA GOLF IND.....PLS. CALL	MANILA GOLF IND.....PLS. CALL
MANILA POLO CLUB.....PLS. CALL	MANILA POLO CLUB.....2.8M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A.....320K	MANILA SOUTHWOODS B.....630K
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B.....700K	MIMOSA-IND.....180K
MANILA YACHT CLUB.....300K	MIMOSA C-3.....550K
METROPOLITAN CLUB.....150K	ORCHARD A.....150K
MT. MALARAYAT C.....400K	RIVIERA GOLF B.....100K
ORCHARD B.....350K	PALMS COUNTRY CLUB.....350K
ORCHARD C.....400K	SHERWOOD HILLS B.....70K
RIVIERA GOLF C.....200K	SPA & LODGE.....450K
ROCKWELL CLUB IND.....230K	STA. ELENA A.....1.1M
ROCKWELL CLUB CORP.....400K	STA. ELENA B.....1.4M
VALLE VERDE.....90K	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS.....620K
WACK WACK.....PLS. CALL	WACK WACK.....0.2M

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Gatchalian group needs $20M to operate petrochem plant

INVESTMENT FIRM METRO ALLIANCE Holdings and Equities Corp. (Metro Alliance) and its Iranian partners will need $20 million to start operating the mothballed petrochemical plant in Bataan by next year.

This according to Renato Magadia, company chair and president of Metro Alliance, a member of the Gatchalian group.

Magadia said the Metro Alliance group needs to cough up $8 million, representing its 40-percent interest in NPC Alliance Corp., which owns the Bataan petrochemical plant. The balance will be shelled out by its foreign partners.

NPC Alliance is 40 percent held by the Metro Alliance Group through Polymax Worldwide Ltd. of the Gatchalian group.

The remaining 60 percent is held by National Petrochemical Co. of Iran, the world's second largest supplier of gas.

The Bataan Polyethylene Corp. (BPC) plant, which was decommissioned in 2000, has a capacity to produce 275,000 metric tons a year of petrochemical products.

The re-commissioning and eventual operation of the Bataan facility is expected to put the country closer to achieving its goal of having an integrated and developed Philippine petrochemical industry.

A petrochemical plant produces raw materials needed to manufacture plastic products, among others.

Once the plant becomes operational, Magadia said the plant may generate $20 million in profit on its first year. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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Firms keen on Masbate project

By Abigail L. Ho

TWELVE INVESTORS have expressed interest to become the new power provider (NPP) of the National Power Corp. Small Power Utilities Group's (Spug) Masbate area.

According to Napocor, the International Finance Corp.—the transaction adviser tasked with managing the privatization of the Spug areas—issued requests for proposals last month.

In a report to the Department of Energy, IFC said bids were expected to come in by mid-October, and a winner declared by the end of that month.

Apart from Masbate, the report also indicated activities in Napocor Spug's Occidental Mindoro area, which, like Masbate, was also part of the second batch of areas to be privatized.

As of end-2005, Napocor-Spug areas Tablas, Romblon, Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro, Mainland Palawan, Catanduanes and Bantayan Island have been turned over to NPPs, according to data from the DOE.

These firms were selected via a competitive bidding process.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 15, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37.5	38	37.5	38	1,662,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55.5	56	55	55.5	790,000
China Banking Corp.	690	690	690	690	2,040
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.41	13,400,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	77	77.5	76	76	127,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	39.5	39	39.5	304,000
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	33.5	37,800
Phil. Savings Bank	41	42.5	41	42.5	3,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17.5	16.75	17.5	15,400
Security Bank Corp.	51	51	51	51	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	20,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	960,000
Filipino Fund Inc	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	19,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1600	1590	1590	1,710
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	41,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	225	225	225	225	13,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2010	1980	1980	680
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	2,175,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	48	48	47.5	48	143,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	47.5	48.5	47.5	48	558,900
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	19	18.5	18.75	374,700
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	29	29	181,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2	2,645,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	4,072,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	52,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	539,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	35,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	23	23,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	33	33	36,200
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	90,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	107,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	87,500
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	71	398,800
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.75	18	1,072,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	2,510,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	1,100,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4	4	4	4	2,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,211,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.46	0.51	0.46	0.49	119,360,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.125	26,630,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	8,000,000
Ayala Corp.	462.5	467.5	460	465	85,550
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.53	220,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	21,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.029	0.027	0.028	28,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.94	1.96	294,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.23	1,750,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	27,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.93	930,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.2	3.6	3.2	3.45	420,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.26	256,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	35,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	2,109,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.7	400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.15	3.35	3.15	3.3	4,891,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	277,000
Medco Holdings	0.235	0.26	0.235	0.24	1,370,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.3	1.4	1.28	1.32	16,977,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	22,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.135	280,000
SM Investments Corp.	229	229	228	229	1,019,850
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.16	657,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.11	16,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.75	14	2,543,300
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,485,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.65	2.65	683,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	7,410,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.85	0.85	520,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.06	0.0525	0.06	8,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	6,143,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	210,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.84	22,415,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.4	3.65	3.4	3.6	333,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	764,400
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	1,110,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	66,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8.1	294,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.61	0.57	0.6	660,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.0925	1,800,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16	16	16	16	11,900
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.02	1.02	1	1	320,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	9,611,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1035	1040	1030	1035	15,800
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.4	4.5	3,963,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2055	2120	2055	2110	268,630
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	600,000
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	3,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	75,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	6,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	40,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	215,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	24,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.2	1.2	110,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	22,500
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6	6	6	6	2,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.94	589,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	6,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	60,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	29,000
Ipeople Inc	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	162,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.04	101,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,604,600
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	65,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.25	4.25	4.1	4.25	1,459,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.15	4.3	4.1	4.25	1,131,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	209,900,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	1,019,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	25,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	4,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	13,570,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	1,420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.02	0.018	0.02	601,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.023	0.02	0.023	301,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	114,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.25	3.55	3.25	3.55	12,393,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21.5	21.5	21	21.25	5,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	560,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	14,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	300,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1	1	1	1,110,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	340,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp.-B	10	10	10	10	2,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9	9.8	9	9.8	395,000

CURRENCIES

September 15, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.785978	1.000000	50.3050
Japan	Yen	0.006686	0.008506	0.4279
United Kingdom	Pound	1.482905	1.886700	94.9104
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101002	0.128505	6.4644
Switzerland	Franc	0.627778	0.798722	40.1797
Canada	Dollar	0.703021	0.894454	44.9955
Singapore	Dollar	0.498243	0.633914	31.8890
Australia	Dollar	0.592877	0.754318	37.9460
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.084989	2.652731	133.4456
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209572	0.266638	13.4132
Brunei	Dollar	0.496669	0.631912	31.7883
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021063	0.026799	1.3481
UAE	Dirham	0.214000	0.272272	13.6966
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.272300	64.0031
Argentina	Peso	0.253542	0.322581	16.2274
Brazil	Real	0.366252	0.465983	23.4413
Denmark	Kroner	0.134071	0.170579	8.5810
India	Rupee	0.017090	0.021744	1.0938
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214046	0.272331	13.6996
Mexico	New Peso	0.071629	0.091133	4.5844
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519209	0.660589	33.2309
Norway	Kroner	0.120457	0.153257	7.7096
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013004	0.016545	0.8323
South Africa	Rand	0.106285	0.135227	6.8026
Korea	Won	0.000821	0.001045	0.0526
Sweden	Kroner	0.108387	0.137901	6.9371
Syria	Pound	0.015141	0.019264	0.9691
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023887	0.030391	1.5288
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000366	0.000466	0.0234

Un-Sabio-ry

BESIEGED PCGG CHAIR CAMILO SABIO WILL have another battlefront opened today; his very own in-laws will present to the Senate, the Supreme Court and Malacañang copies of a handwritten letter from Sabio's own mother-in-law who wanted the lawyer disbarred as her dying wish.

Sabio's mother-in-law, Emma Alo-Ledonio, passed away in 1998, but not after entrusting a three-page letter to one of her daughters.

Sabio is still being sued by all nine Ledonio siblings except Sabio's wife for the return of 5.8 hectares, part of the 23-hectare Ledonio land in Las Piñas.

At a conservative P3,000/square-meter, the contested 5.8-hectare property—which the Ayalas want to co-develop along with the bigger Ledonio land to expand the Ayalas' adjoining Southvale Village—is easily worth P174 million.

The now yellowed letter, which the daughter said she has decided to disclose after being repelled by Sabio's behavior in the ongoing Senate investigation, denounces Sabio for having allegedly tricked the Ledonio matriarch into signing away the Las Piñas property.

The Ledonio siblings have already scored partial victory at the Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals, which ordered Sabio to return half of his in-laws' 1,200-sq.m. lot in Simoun Street, Quezon City.

According to court records, Sabio bought half of the Quezon City property, occupied the third floor of the house for eight years where his mother-in-law also lived, but never paid the balance after making a down payment.

But, more than the court cases, what should worry the good government chair is that his in-laws are ready to testify that their now famous brother-in-law has been provided by a sequestered company with a Mitsubishi Pajero for his family use, in addition to the official PCGG vehicle that he now uses.

According to the Ledonios, the Pajero is on top of Christmas and Easter holidays in a luxury Manila hotel, provided by the same sequestered company to the Sabios.

The Ledonios came to know of the corporate generosity after the Sabios invited, in another fresh attempt at reconciliation, the more moderate members of the family to dinner at the luxury hotel.

The official line for Sabios' frequent hotel accommodations is that the PCGG chief and the president of the sequestered corporation have been conducting marathon meetings in the hotel's penthouse suite upon orders of no less than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to finally forge an amicable settlement to the two-decade-old problem.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

been working in the country without a permit.

Weidermann, who has been in the country since January 2001 on a missionary visa, only applied for a work permit in May after two doctors sued him.

According to the grapevine, the two doctors, Jose Relacion Jr. and Constancio Pozon Jr., had been forced to leave the Adventist hospital after a bitter management dispute.

Money-go-round

- AFTER gaining wide acceptance in Taiwan and Singapore, the local McDonald's is introducing today the McRice Burger, which promises, with its lettuce and red cabbage toppings over chicken or beef, to be a lesser weapon of mass obesity than its bread-based predecessor.
- THE AYALA-CONTROLLED Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. has taken out the secretariat address and telephone number of the International School protesters from www.ismstakeholders.com, leaving only an email address.

The protest secretariat was hosted right in the FBDC boardroom, on account of one protest leader being married to a top Ayala official, not to mention that the Zobels themselves were among the first parents to sign up to the movement.

Heard through the grapevine

THE WRECKING crew sent by MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando to dismantle the advertisements on the MRT posts along Edsa have shied away from removing the GMA-7, ABS-CBN and ABC-5 posters.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Adventist's inadvertence

THE SEVENTH-DAY Adventist hospital in Pasay City is undergoing a management crisis of sorts, after the labor department last week ruled that its chair and president, Donald Lee Weidermann, has

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PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	1.0006	1.0002
PELAC Peso Equity Fund	1.0006	1.0002

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

P43.9-B power project gets BOI incentives

By Ronnel W. Domingo

GNPOWER LTD. CO. HAS SECURED INVESTment incentives for its planned P43.9-billion coal-fired plant in Mariveles, Bataan.

The facility will rise on an area reserved for an energy complex that hosts liquefied natural gas facilities.

According to the Board of Investments, the proposed project would use clean pulverized coal and would have two identical units, each with a generating capacity of 300 megawatts.

The coal plant will burn imported ultra low-sulfur and low-ash coal as main fuel as well as low-sulfur bunker fuel oil that will be used for start-up.

The BOI said the power plant was expected to start commercial operation by 2010, the same year when a forecast capacity shortage is seen to hit the Luzon grid.

GNPower plans to finance 66.4 percent or P29.16 billion of the project cost through equity and the remaining P14.75 billion through loans.

The project will be registered with the BOI under pioneer status, which qualifies the firm to avail itself of a six-year tax holiday, duty-free importation of capital equipment and other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

GNPower is 99-percent owned by Nauruan-American firm Power Partners Ltd. Co. and one percent by Filipino firm PMR Holding Corp.

The company has been developing a 75-hectare area in Barangay Alasasin in Mariveles town where a P96.5-billion integrated energy complex is expected to rise.

The complex will be made up of a 1,200-MW combined cycle power plant that runs on LNG as well as a handling facility or terminal for the clean fuel that would be imported from within the region.

This original project, for which GNPower has also secured BOI registration in 2004, is seen as a major component in establishing a wider base for the natural gas market that the government wants developed with the midstream and downstream sectors.

An industry source have said GNPower was finding it hard to sign up large-demand customers while construction of the LNG facilities should be starting by 2007 if these were to operate by 2010.

"It's taking time to convince customers to enter into supply contracts simply because they are not used to transacting for supply so far forward into the future," the source said.

"Electricity consumers, whether bulk users or residential scale, are more used to paying their bills monthly," the source added.

Still, the source said only supply contracts would push the project forward toward realization. "Without contracts, the proponents cannot move, the facility would not be built."

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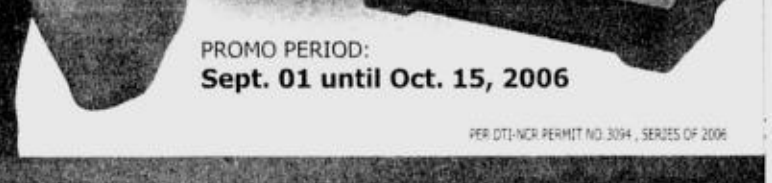


SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS & SPECIAL EVENTS (as of September 14, 2006)

OCTOBER 5, 2006 (Thursday)

Seminars (Venue: Hall B, WTCMM):

1:00pm - 3:00pm Sponsored by: Le Club FCC (Seminar Rm. 1)
Updates on PED / Gamefowl Conditioning / Sow-Piglet Chain Feeding Program
by: Univet (Seminar Rm. 2)

3:30pm - 5:30pm Sponsored by: Le Club FCC (Seminar Rm. 1)
The Reality of Salmonella Control: Treatment and Prevention / Phytogenic Feed Additives - The Performance of Nature for Profitable Poultry Production
by: Agrimate (Seminar Rm. 2)

Special Events (Venue: Lobby, WTCMM):

1:00pm - 2:00pm MEGArantisadong Sarap by: Mega Sardines
2:30pm - 4:00pm Product Launching - Doggiessential, Electrogen Plus, Pigrolac-Mama Pro by: Univet
4:00pm - 5:00pm Product Launching by: Cargill Animal Health

OCTOBER 6, 2006 (Friday)

Seminars (Venue: Hall B, WTCMM):

10:30am - 12:30pm Latest Development on Modern Housing System for Layers, Pullets, etc.
by: Pigpro/JPE (Jansen Poultry Equipment) (Seminar Rm. 1)
Philsurin's Variety Improvement Program / Sugarcane Variety Improvement Through Regional Germplasm & Technology Sharing
by: Philippine Sugar Research Institute Foundation (Seminar Rm. 2)

1:00pm - 3:00pm Sponsored by: Le Club FCC (Seminar Rm. 1)
Implication of the Complex Genetics of Sugarcane in Breeding Efforts Towards its Improvements / Applications of Molecular Markers in the Sugarcane Breeding Program of Philsurin
by: Philippine Sugar Research Institute Foundation (Seminar Rm. 2)

3:30pm - 5:30pm Sponsored by: Le Club FCC (Seminar Rm. 1)

Special Events (Venue: Lobby, WTCMM):

10:00am - 10:30pm Parade of Mascots by: San Miguel Foods, Inc.
10:30am - 12:00pm Bingo Bonanza by: B-Meg
1:30pm - 2:00pm Parade of Mascots by: San Miguel Foods, Inc.
2:00pm - 4:00pm Cooking Demonstration by: Poultry/MFC
4:00pm - 6:00pm Videoke Challenge by: VMPF

OCTOBER 7, 2006 (Saturday)

Seminars (Venue: Hall B, WTCMM):

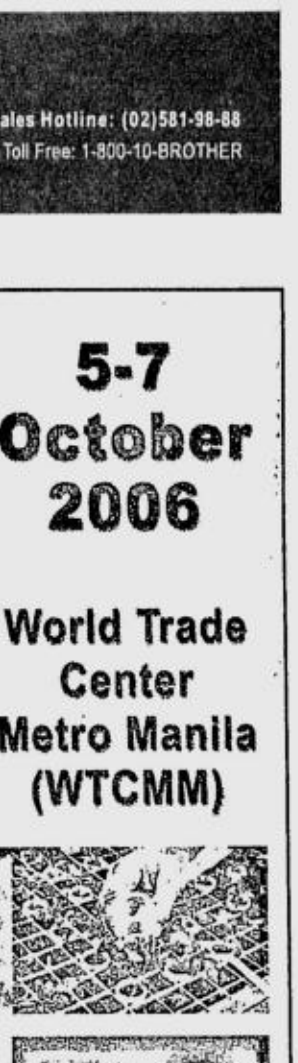
10:30am - 12:30pm Organic Genes: Starting the Organic Farm
by: Organic Producers Trade Association (Seminar Rm. 1)
Bt Corn: Minimizing Mycotoxin Contamination in Animal Feeds
by: Monsanto Phils. (Seminar Rm. 2)

1:00pm - 3:00pm Sponsored by: Le Club FCC (Seminar Rm. 1)
Trends in Tilapia Farming
by: BFAR National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Development Center (Seminar Rm. 2)
Economic Viability of Carps in Polyculture Fish Farming Systems
by: BFAR NIFTC (Seminar Rm. 2)

3:30pm - 5:30pm Sponsored by: Le Club FCC (Seminar Rm. 1)
Opportunities for LGU Supported Backyard Aquarium Fish Raising
by: BFAR Region IV-A Project Collaborator (Seminar Rm. 2)
Business Opportunities in Mariculture Parks
by: BFAR Central Office (Seminar Rm. 2)

Special Events (Venue: Lobby, WTCMM):

10:30am - 12:00pm Agri Kapihan Forum by: Agri-Aqua Network Int'l.
1:00pm - 2:00pm Cooking Demonstration by: Organic Producers Trade Association
2:00pm - 3:00pm Cooking Demonstration by: Bureau of Animal Industry



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Entrance and Seminars are free

Disorderly decline?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

FOR DECADES, THE DOLLAR has been the de facto currency of the world.

Outside of the United States, the rest of the world likes to hold dollars and assets denominated in dollars because they trade with, invest in and receive investments from the United States extensively.

A substantial chunk of US dollars that are circulating are outside of the United States, in the hands of foreigners. Foreign holdings of US assets as of mid-2005 amounted to $6.3 trillion, more than five times what it was in 1994 ($1.2 trillion). As of two years ago, non-Americans held about 13 percent of US stocks, 24 percent of US corporate bonds, and 43 percent of US government securities.

New record

Back then, I wrote about how the world was increasingly seeing the American currency as a hot potato ("Dumping dollars," NFL 11-22-04). The peso then was trading at 56 to the dollar; the Thai baht was at about P41.

The US current account deficit—the excess of current financial outflows over the corresponding inflows—was at a record $665 billion.

In figures announced last week, the US trade deficit hit an all-time record monthly high of $68.04 billion last July, and is projected to approach $800 billion for the full year.

This would be yet another annual record deficit for the fifth year in a row. Contributing to this outcome are a decline in US exports and record high prices of imported oil.

Coupled with an equally alarming US government budget deficit fueled by the war in Iraq, these imbalances spell instability and economic troubles ahead for the world's largest economy. Faith in the US dollar suffers as a result, leading to its steady weakening.

IMF's worry

As the Boards of Governors of the IMF and World Bank meet in Singapore this week, the former has been sounding the alarm about a "disorderly decline" in the US dollar. In its Global Stability Report, the IMF called for more aggressive policies to address global savings and investment imbalances.

The "disorder" being feared is a global recessionary spiral, i.e. a worldwide drop in production and employment triggered by the dumping of dollars in the face of its projected weakening.

How would such a recessionary spiral develop? The dollar-dumping trend tends to fuel itself. As the dollar loses value, foreign traders and investors increasingly avoid buying US stocks and bonds, and start selling them off for assets denominated in "safer" currencies like the euro, yen or even the Chinese yuan.

With a sliding stock market and a falling dollar, Americans lose confidence in their own economy. The sell-off would also trigger a rise in long-term interest rates on US bonds and mortgages.

Beyond the United States

Meanwhile, the rising euro and yen make Europe's and Japan's exports less competitive, slowing down their production sectors.

Recessions in the United States, Europe and Japan would in turn hurt Asian, Latin American and African economies that export heavily to these large markets. Thus ensues a domino effect that leads to global recession—all because the world now doesn't want as much dollars as there are moving around.

With indications pointing to a protracted weakening of the dollar, the IMF expects Asian currencies to appreciate over the medium term while non-Asian currencies weaken.

Indeed, the region's currencies are stronger today than they were two years ago. From 56 then, our peso now trades at around 50 to the dollar. From 41 then, the Thai baht now trades at 37 to the dollar. If the peso seems stronger these days, look around because we're not alone: It's the weakening dollar, stupid!

Sliding investment

Closer to home, something else has been sliding continuously and should alarm us even more, possibly of another similar "disorderly decline."

The second quarter economic growth data released recently by the government show yet another quarter of falling real investment, also known as capital formation.

Investment has continuously posted negative growth or actual declines since the beginning of 2005. What is worrying is that the decline was much steeper in the second quarter (-5.8 percent) compared to the first quarter (-1.9 percent).

And the decline is across all categories of investment: Construction reversed to -5.2 percent from a positive 2.3 percent in Q1; durable equipment deepened its Q1 drop of -0.7 percent to -6.2 percent; and breeding stock and orchard development fell -1.7 percent, still worse than its -1.4 percent Q1 drop.

Unsustainable growth?

What this is telling us is that the sustainability of the current overall GDP growth rate of about 5.5 percent may be subject to question.

Investment represents expenditures to expand the economy's productive capacity. If investment has been dropping consistently over the last six quarters, our economy's capacity to expand production is clearly not keeping pace with our productive sectors' current growth.

This is a matter that demands utmost attention, especially because in contrast, our neighbors continue to post strong investment growth. We may be keeping pace with the GDP growth rates of our neighbors so far, but given our falling investment levels, if we can't boost investments soon, it won't be long before we lag behind all over again.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Megaworld ups capital ... From page B4

shares.

After the capital hike, Megaworld will have 30.2 billion common shares.

Megaworld hopes to complete a 12-storey, 35,000 square meter BPO building called McKinley Corp. Plaza next year.

It also broke ground on a P600-million office building at the Newport City in Pasay, spanning 20,000 square meters.

The office building was designed to meet the needs of companies engaged in BPO services.

The office building is set for completion by the first quarter of 2008.

Megaworld is committed to help accelerate the growth of the BPO industry in the Philippines by making BPO office construction a pillar of its medium-term development program.

Megaworld has six big-ticket projects, which account for 80 percent of its total 123-hectare land bank.

These include "Eastwood City," the company's first 15-hectare community township development in Quezon City and "Forbes Town Center," a mixed-use project on five hectares of land in Bonifacio Global City consisting of high-rise residences and retail centers.

"McKinley Hill" is another township located on 50 hectares of land in Fort Bonifacio.

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PROGRAMME

8:00 – 9:00	Registration	Session 4	
9:00 – 9:15	Opening Remarks Mr. Tom C. Banguis, Jr. President, Philippine Marketing Association	1:30 – 2:15pm	"Sustaining Market Leadership in Asia Broadcasting" Speaker: Mr. Manuel P. Quiogue President & COO, GMA Marketing & Productions, Inc.
Session 1		2:15 – 2:30pm	Q & A
9:15 – 10:00am	"New Wave of Advertising" Speaker: Ms. Emily A. Abrera Chairman Emeritus, Mc Cann Erickson Phils.	Session 5	
10:00 – 10:15am	Q & A	2:30 – 3:15pm	"Bringing Fast foods to the next level" Speaker: Mr. Raffy dela Rosa President & CEO, Chowking Foods Corp.
10:15 – 10:30am	Coffee Break	3:15 – 3:30pm	Q & A
Session 2		3:30 – 3:45pm	Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:15am	"Sustaining and Creating Challenging Brands in the Land of the Giants" Speaker: Mr. Cecilio K. Pedro President & CEO, Lamoiyan Corporation	Session 6	
11:15 – 11:30am	Q & A	3:45 – 4:30pm	"Export Marketing" Speaker: Mr. Luis Raymond Villafuerte Jr. President, Lara's Gift & Decors, Inc.
Session 3		4:30 – 4:45pm	Q & A
11:30 – 12:15nn	"New Trend in Philippine Marketing" Speaker: Mr. Tomas B. Lopez, Jr. Professor, Asian Institute of Management	Session Chair:	Mr. Jos B. Ortega Chairman & CEO, BrandLab
12:15 – 12:30nn	Q & A	4:45 – 5:30	Closing / Raffle
Session Chair (AM)	Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr. Full Professor, De La Salle University – Manila		
12:30 – 1:30pm	Networking Lunch		

For further inquiries, please call the Secretariat, PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

PR NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS
9186	Water Meter ½" Ø for New Tapping and Reconnection	P1 650 000 00	1,000.00	September 18 to 22, 2006	September 21, 2006	October 3, 2006
9198	CI Fittings for Installation of Pipeline @ Veterans Ave Sta. Catalina Road, ZC	116,568.00	500.00	September 18 to 22, 2006	September 21, 2006	October 3, 2006
9117	Water Meter ½" Ø for New Tapping	1,650,000 00	1,000.00	September 18 to 22, 2006	September 21, 2006	October 3, 2006

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedures.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8 00 - 5.00 pm)

All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted

Bid Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email:
Fax (062) 991-2799

(Sgd) RODOLFO G. CARTAGENA
BAC I Vice-Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 18, 2006)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid for 2006 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids
Printing and Supply of Nurses Licensure Examination (NLE) Test Booklets	2,968,000 00 at P0.53/page	October 4, 2006 At 10 00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	October 16, 2006 At 10 00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg
Printing and Supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets	7,524,000 00 at P3.42/sheet	October 5, 2006 At 10 00 a m PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	October 17, 2006 At 10 00 a m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg
Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAFs)	855,000 00 at P3.42/sheet	October 5, 2006 At 2 00 p m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	October 17, 2006 At 2:00 p m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg
Courier Services	1,200,000.00	October 6, 2006 At 10.00 a m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	October 18, 2006 At 10 00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg
Security Services	FOR CURRENT PADPAO RATES (49 GUARDS)	October 5, 2006 At 2 00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	October 18, 2006 At 2 00 p m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg

Only bidders registered with the Electronic Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Chairman, Commissioner Renato B. Valdecantos, 2nd floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on September 19, 2006. The deadline for the submission of Registration Requirements shall be on October 4, 2006 at 5 00 in the afternoon

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at cost by interested bidders starting on September 20, 2006 from the Office of the BAC Chairman.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids based on a set of criteria of responsiveness to the Commission's requirements.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) LEONOR T. ROSERO
Chairperson

(PDI–Sept. 18 & 25, 2006)

BSP to facilitate government's global bond swap offer

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS WILL issue a circular that will facilitate the implementation of the national government's global bond swap.

In a draft circular, the BSP's Monetary Board will allow holders of old Philippine global bonds, which are classified as "held to maturity," to exchange the old bonds with new global bonds to be issued by the government.

The draft circular will exempt bond holders from the rule prohibiting the sale of securities that have been recorded in their books of account as "held to maturity (HTM)."

For prudent asset valuation of corporate entities, the international accounting standards disallow the sale of securities classified under the HTM category, but allow the sale of securities declared as "Available for Sale."

BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla said that the central bank will exempt bond holders from the prohibition to allow the smooth implementation of the government's bond exchange program.

But he added that the new global bonds to be swapped with old bonds classified as HTM would also be considered as HTM to prevent the sale of the bonds in the secondary market.

The government said it would swap approximately $1.2 billion worth of new global bonds with $1 billion worth of old foreign-denominated government securities under its debt consolidation program.

Under the program, the government will exchange new debt instruments with long-term tenors with that of old securities that are about to mature.

The government is offering to swap new bonds maturing in 2024 with old bonds that are supposed to mature in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2019.

The government stands to benefit from this exercise, which will stretch the average maturity of its debts.

Even investors stand to gain by giving them the opportunity to exchange their bond holdings with more liquid assets.

The move to swap global bonds is the latest effort of the government to consolidate its debts.

The latest bond exchange follows a similar exercise in the past where newly issued domestic bonds were exchanged for old 3-, 5-, 7- and 10-year Treasury bonds.

US firm sees $50-M prospect in RP

By Riza T. Olchondra

A TEXAS-BASED provider of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) has said it expects $50 million of the company's global profits to come from the Philippines in two years' time, because of the country's strong business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

Accela Inc. said that it has saved its customers $450,980 in total call charges over the past 12 months, and this is expected to draw more clients over the next year.

VoIP allows voice calls to be made anywhere in the world using the same connection used for Internet access.

With just one connection needed for both services, IP carriers can charge more affordable rates for VoIP than international voice calls made through traditional telephone lines.

Accela Inc. president Kevin Ford said in a press briefing that the company presently earns $20 million in annual global revenues, and sees this growing to $100 million in two years.

About 20 percent of the target revenue is expected to come from VoIP services to BPOs in the Philippines.

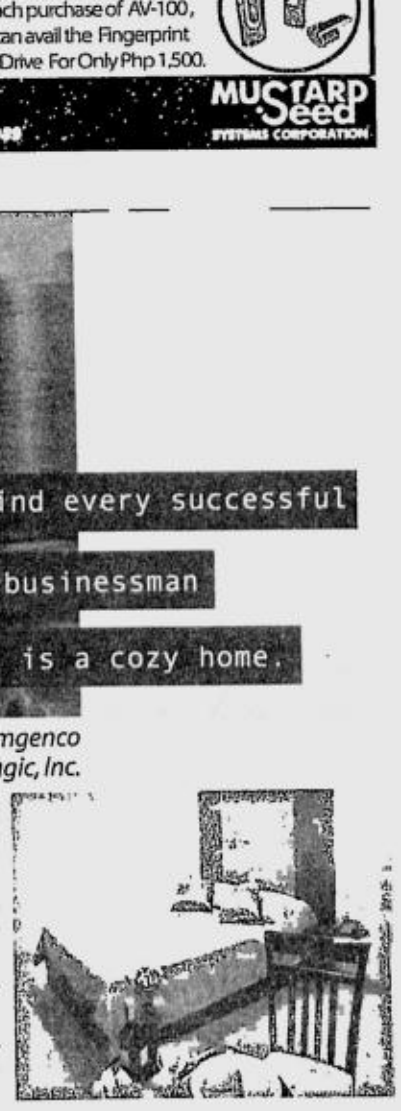
Data from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that BPOs in the Philippines grew at an annual average of about 160 percent between 2001 to 2004 and amounted to about $1.655 billion in 2004.

"(That is why) we are extremely bullish in the call center industry here in the Philippines," Ford stressed.

According to the same government source, the biggest sub-sector in the Philippine BPO industry is customer care and call centers, which rake in $864 million in revenue today and employ over 100,000 Filipinos.

To better serve the needs of this growth sector, Accela has invested almost $1 million in its operations and expects to spend the same amount yearly.

Mr. Jun jun Limgenco
Entrepreneur, Blue Magic, Inc.



CEB cuts fuel surcharges

THE RECENT SOFTENING OF world oil prices and the price rollbacks effected by local petroleum companies prompted Cebu Pacific to reduce the fuel surcharges on its domestic flights starting last Saturday.

A fuel surcharge, along with government taxes, is paid on top of the airline fare. Airlines were allowed to impose fuel surcharges as a temporary measure to help them cover the additional costs arising from the continued rise in oil prices.

Fuel cost makes up about 33 percent of an airline's operating expenses per passenger and is the second-highest expense incurred by airlines, next to labor.

In a statement, Cebu Pacific said it had reduced the fuel surcharges on Manila-Laoag and Manila-Legaspi flights (one-way) from P800 to P700; Luzon-Visayas flights from P970 to P870; Luzon-Mindanao flights from P1,240 to P1,100; Cebu-Iloilo flights from P710 to P650; Cebu-Zamboanga and Cebu-Davao flights from P860 to P800, and Davao-Zamboanga flights from P860 to P800.

A strong build-up in natural gas inventories in the United States and news that unions had called off their strike in Nigeria, Africa's biggest crude producer, have reportedly eased the general demand for oil in the world market. This resulted in the softening of the prices.

Cebu Pacific CEO and president Lance Y. Gokongwei said in an earlier interview that the airline would encourage more passengers to avail themselves of its services, especially during the coming holidays, and that the carrier was optimistic it could post an 80-percent year-on-year increase in passenger traffic.

Riza T. Olchondra

Proposed consolidation of gov't privatization efforts pushed

Move calls for creation of Gov't Asset Management Authority

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS SEEN reviving a proposal to form an agency that will absorb the privatization functions of all government agencies tasked with selling state assets.

The proposal calls for the consolidation of the government's privatization efforts under a single agency, which may result in the abolition of certain agencies handling sale of state assets.

The proposed new agency, to be called the Government Asset Management Authority (Gama), is aimed at helping the government gain more progress in its privatization efforts by trimming down bureaucratic process of asset sale.

Newly appointed Finance Undersecretary for Privatization John Philip Sevilla, who replaced former Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., told reporters that the Department of Finance was amenable to the idea of having only one government agency in charge of privatization.

A bill creating the Gama, which was authored by Representative Jesli Lapus, was filed in 2004. The bill did not progress but the DOF has included the proposal in its agenda for study.

Sevilla, who worked as a consultant for privatization for the DOF prior to his appointment as finance undersecretary, said the Gama would consolidate the privatization functions of various government agencies such as the Privatization Council, the Privatization Management Office (PMO), the Bases Conversion Authority (BCDA), the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and the Board of Liquidators (BOL).

The Privatization Council oversees the government's privatization program, while the PMO is in charge of disposing assets of government-owned and -controlled corporations.

The BCDA handles the conversion and development of former US bases while the BOL is in charge of selling nonperforming assets of the government. The PCGG sells sequestered assets.

Sevilla said unifying all privatization functions into one body was hoped to hasten the process of selling state assets and help the government achieve the goal of raising more revenues.

The Arroyo administration has adopted the policy of privatizing state assets that are deemed better run by the private sector to help raise more revenues and achieve the medium-term goal of a zero budget deficit.

The finance official said that following the sale of major assets, the latest of which was the former International School property, the DOF was now focused on selling other major state assets.

These include the Al-Amanah Islamic Bank, television stations RPN 9 and IBC 13, government shares in Maynilad, and the Philippine Postal Corp. (Philpost).

Prior to his stint at the DOF, Sevilla worked for four years as an investment banker for financial services firm Goldman Sachs.

On monopolies and cartels

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONTINUING TENdency to interchange monopolies and cartels. While the mutual aim is to avoid competition in an open and free market, a monopoly and a cartel are two entirely different creatures.

A monopoly exists when a person has full control over the supply of a commodity or service. Meralco, with its exclusive right to distribute electricity in Metro Manila, is a classic example of a monopoly.

A cartel exists when two or more persons agree on how to supply a commodity or service. For example, fire insurance used to be sold under the strict price-fixing rules of a cartel composed of all insurance companies. Fortunately, in 1994, because of the Asean Free trade Agreement, the Insurance Commission broke up the cartel. This has led to a severe drop in the price of fire insurance.

The Constitution treats monopolies and cartels differently. Article XII, Section 19, says: "The State shall regulate or prohibit monopolies when the public interest so requires. No combination in restraint of trade or unfair competition shall be allowed."

The energy regulatory board watches over the monopolies in the generation and distribution of electricity.

Although there are more cartels than monopolies, no government agency regulates cartels. As a result, no one has ever been convicted under Article 186 of the Revised Penal Code, which defines the crime of entering or taking part in any conspiracy to restrain trade or commerce. This law might as well have been written with invisible ink.

Whenever the oil companies raises or cuts prices of their products at the same hour, they violate Article 186. But, who is the consumer who will file suit against these huge international companies?

In the United States, the dreaded Anti-Trust Division of the Justice Department keeps a watchful eye on anything that will tend to avoid or reduce competition in the open market. Even Bill Gates, the richest man in the world, has been the target of an anti-trust suit.

There are several forms of cartel. The most common, of course, is the price-fixing type. The banking cartel, which prescribes minimum and maximum interest rates, is probably the most visible.

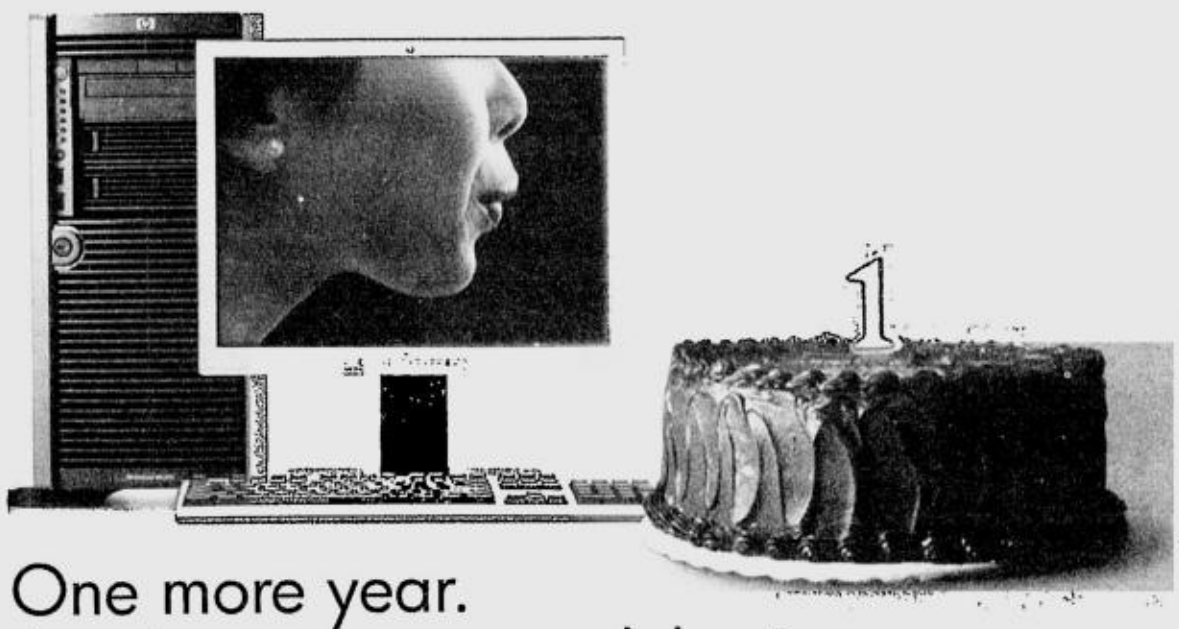
Another form of cartel is where the members are restricted to sell their products in their respective areas. The cement cartel is this type of cartel. The members agree, "I don't sell cement in your area, you don't sell cement in mine."

Still another form of cartel avoids competition by assigning specific products to each member. One may be assigned to manufacture electric motors up to 50 horsepower only, the other to manufacture electric motors of more than 50 horsepower.

One form of cartel—this is probably unique here—is when a so-called consortium of insurance companies, to the exclusion of others, exclusively provides a specially-designed liability insurance policy, which a government agency, by its own directive, requires from, say, owners of public utility vehicles.

The high prices of almost anything you buy nowadays can be traced to the proliferation of cartels in this country. The sooner the government starts a program to break up these cartels, the better it will be for everyone.

Perhaps, as a starter, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez should prosecute somebody under Article 186 of the Revised Penal Code.



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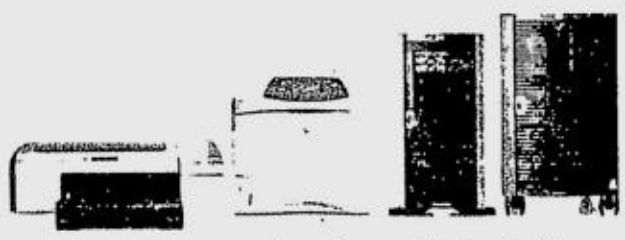

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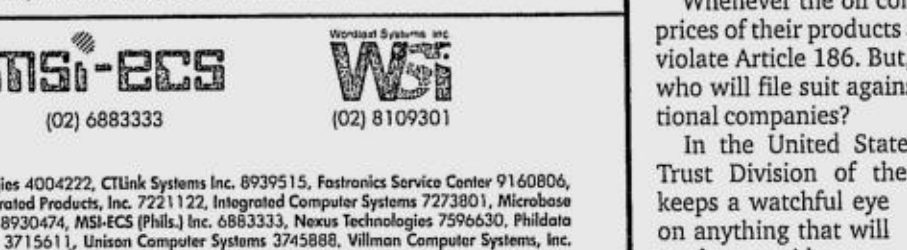

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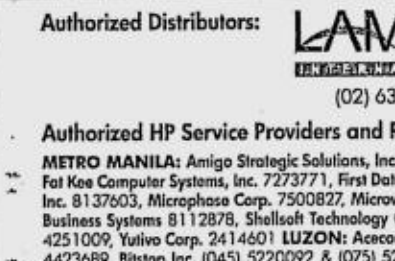

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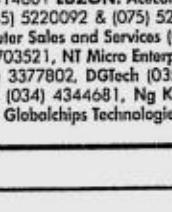

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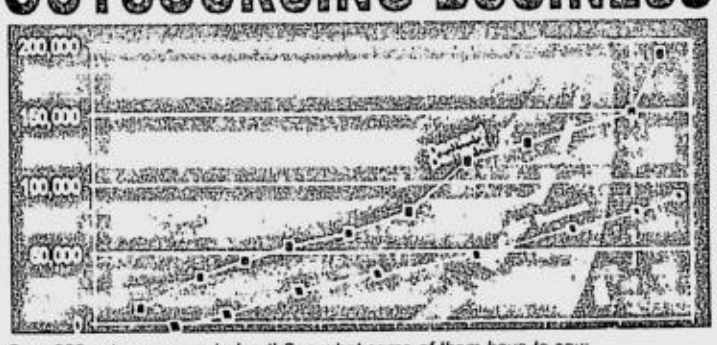

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STABLE SEEDLINGS SUPPLY

PNOC unit putting up 10,000-ha jatropha nursery

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO.-ALTERNATIVE Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC) will start by the first quarter of 2007 the establishment of a 10,000-hectare jatropha nursery in Mindanao.

The nursery will ensure the steady supply of seedlings to PNOC-AFC's planned jatropha plantations in various parts of the country.

Additional feedstock would also come from plantations to be developed by Philippine Forest Corp., wherein PNOC-AFC will invest P500 million, company president Peter Anthony Abaya said.

Also by the first quarter of next year, Abaya said PNOC-AFC and its private sector partners would start setting up integrated biodiesel refineries and feedstock plantations in Mindanao.

By the fourth quarter of 2008 to the first quarter of 2009, at least two PNOC-AFC-owned biodiesel refineries in Mindanao should already be up and running, he added, assuming that all required government permits would be released on time.

More refining capacity should be in place, he said, by 2010, with total biodiesel capacity reaching 1 million metric tons (MT) or 870 million liters by that time.

"At full capacity, we should be able to supply local demand for biodiesel and still export large volumes to the other countries," he said.

PNOC-AFC is looking at setting up a "jatropha-palm triangle"—a vast area where biodiesel feedstock plantations can be established, with three refineries on three different points around the plantation—in Mindanao.

Abaya said in an earlier interview that the "jatropha-palm triangle" would likely include the Cagayan-Bukidnon area, Zamboanga and the Davao-Saranggani-Maguindanao areas.

Overall, he said the area that PNOC-AFC was looking at would cover 700,000 hectares. PNOC-AFC is also negotiating with 17 prospective joint venture partners for the establishment of jatropha and palm plantations and refineries with total capacity of 2 million MT a year.

Of these, 11 intended to own and operate the plantations. PNOC-AFC, meanwhile, would own 10-30 percent of these refineries and plantations, Abaya said.

Filminera, partner to start mining project in Masbate

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL MINING FIRM FILMINERA RESources Inc. will start its mining project in Masbate in the first quarter of 2007.

This will entail some $100 million in new investments, a company official said.

The Aroroy Gold project in Masbate is a joint venture between Filminera and Thistle Mining Inc. of Canada.

In an interview, Thistle Mining chief executive officer Gerrit Kennedy said his company was confident that the feasibility study for the Aroroy gold project would be approved and that it was eager to begin the project.

"We are aiming at starting construction works in the first quarter of 2007 so we could begin production in 2008," Kennedy said. The project involves the rehabilitation of the old Atlas gold mine to produce 138,500 ounces of gold per year. The joint venture is currently conducting confirmatory drilling to finalize its feasibility study, according to Mines and Geosciences Bureau's chief mining economist Benjamin de Vera said.

In the first quarter of this year, Filiminera and its joint venture partner Thistle poured into the project some $1.1 million for drilling and exploration works.

Filiminera has infused a total of $13.84 million into the said project since 2002, paid P1.9 million in tax last year, and now employs 121.

GOINGS-ON

Directories publishers' conference in Tagaytay

LEADERS OF DIRECTORY COMPANIES IN ASIA will converge in Tagaytay City on Sept. 21-23 for the 20th annual conference of the Asian Directories Publishers Associations Inc.

This will be the second time that the event will be held in the Philippines, with Adpai founder and charter member Directories Philippines Corp. (DPC) as host. DPC last hosted the conference in Cebu six years ago.

This year's conference with the theme 'The Changing Marketplace' will gather the movers in directory publishing and its ancillary services in Asia to discuss how the industry should respond to the rapid changes in demographics, technology and the emergence of new Yellow Pages business models, said Ricardo D. Bautista, DPC president and incumbent president of Adpai.

6th Philippine Food Expo

THE PHILIPPINE FOOD PROCESSORS AND EXporters' Organization (Philfoodex), the country's biggest organization of local food processors and exporters, celebrates its 20th anniversary with the 6th Philippine Food Expo on Feb. 1-4, 2007 at the Megatrade Hall of the SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

After staging a successful Expo last January, Philfoodex promises an even bigger event next year as it brings together the major food industry players, entrepreneurs and businessmen in the only all-Filipino consumer trade fair.

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intel Xeon inside

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PRIMA i640DC4 Server
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• Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® processor 5110
• (1.6GHz, 4MB L2 cache, 1066MHz FSB)
• Supports up to two Dual-Core processors
• Intel S5000P server chipset
• 1GB ECC Fully Buffered DIMM DDR2
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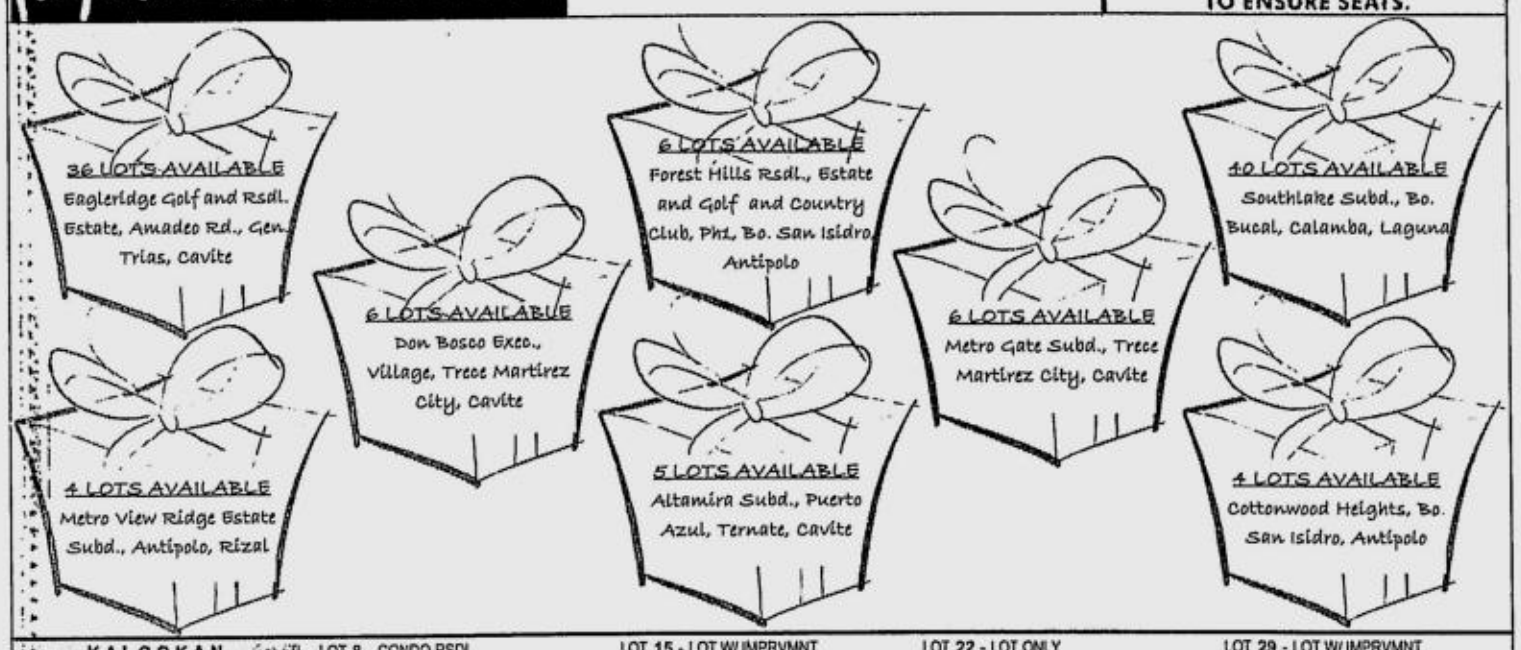

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LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 290 sqm.
No. 8 Humabon St., Urduja Village, Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price: 725,000

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 400 sqm.
L4/B22-A. Road Lot 46, Congress Village, Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price: 800,000

MALABON CITY

LOT 3 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 8,318 sqm.
Floor Area: 6,135 sqm.
No. 3 Bustamante St. Brgy. Catmon
Minimum Bid Price: 42,600,000

MANILA

LOT 4 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,373 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,914 sqm.
No. 1447 Leroy St. Paco Manila
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000,000

PARAÑAQUE CITY

LOT 5 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 164.62 sqm.
(w/ parking). Unit 1703 Pacific Coast Condo Project, Coastal Road Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 2,800,000

LOT 6 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 164.62 sqm.
(w/ parking). Unit 1903 Pacific Coast Condo Project, Coastal Road Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 2,800,000

LOT 7 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 167.09 sqm.
(w/ parking). Unit 1604. Pacific Coast Condo Project, Coastal Road, Tambo Parañaque City
Minimum Bid Price: 2,800,000

LOT 8 - CONDO-RSDL
Floor Area: 356.61 sqm.
(w/ parking). Unit 26-B Cleveland Tower Condominium, E. Aguinaldo Blvd., Asia World City
Minimum Bid Price: 10,000,000

LOT 9 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 324 sqm.
Floor Area: 241 sqm.
No. 8613 Diamante cor Esmeralda Sts., Marcelo Green Village, Phase 4
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000

PASAY

LOT 10 -LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,931 sqm
Floor Area: 1,967.5 sqm.
No. 555 Vegrel St, Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 20,000,000

LOT 11 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 701 sqm.
Floor Area: 484 sqm.
No. 159 Cuneta Ave. cor. P. Celle St.
Minimum Bid Price: 16,000,000

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,527.96 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,348 sqm.
No. 160 Cuneta Ave
Minimum Bid Price: 29,000,000

QUEZON CITY

LOT 13 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 381 sqm.
Floor Area: 206 sqm.
No. 45 East Riverside St., San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price: 2,400,000

LOT 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 450 sqm.
Floor Area: 90 sqm.
No. 6 Pittsburgh St., Brgy. Silangan, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price: 5,000,000

LOT 15 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,125 sqm.
Floor Area: n/a
No. 191 Katipunan Avenue, Quirino District
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000,000

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 16 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,728 sqm.
Floor Area: 100 sqm.
Lot 6-B-4-B-2, Coloong Road I, Brgy. Coloong
Minimum Bid Price: 2,400,000

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 9,037 sqm.
No. 3 San Andres Canumay
Minimum Bid Price: 18,980,000

LOT 18 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 4,835 sqm.
Floor Area: 7,990.5 sqm.
Int. M. Gregorio St., Bagong Filipino Compound Bgy. Canumay
Minimum Bid Price: 29,700,000

RIZAL

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 600 sqm.
Floor Area: 103.5 sqm.
Lot 5-C-2, Unnamed Rd. Sn. Juan,Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: 1,800,000

PROVINCIAL

BATANGAS

LOT 20 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 435 sqm.
Floor Area: n/a
Along J. Zuno St., Poblacion E. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 3,700,000

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Along J. Zuno St., Poblacion E. Rosario
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 19,195 sqm.
Int. J. P. Laurel Provincial Road (Talisay-Tananuan Road), Km. 71, Bo. Talaga, Tanauan
Minimum Bid Price: 6,500,000

LOT 23 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 294 sqm.
Floor Area: 406.62 sqm.
Along D. Silang St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 3,700,000

CAVITE

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 17,830 sqm.
Lot 2, New Cavite Ind'l City,Bo. Buenavista, Gen. Trias
Minimum Bid Price: 29,680,000

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 465 sqm.
L21/B2, Grand Cypress Road, Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price: 1,800,000

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 971 sqm.
L3/B7, Ph. III, Southwoods Avenue, Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price: 3,800,000

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 325 sqm.
L13/B31, Brgy. Quintana, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: 455,000

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
L15/B31, Brgy. Quintana, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: 420,000

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,033 sqm.
Floor Area: 259 sqm.
No. 122 J. P. Rizal St., Silang
Minimum Bid Price: 6,600,000

LAGUNA

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 324 sqm.
Floor Area: 297 sqm.
No. 8 Ortega St., San Vicente, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 1,140,000

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Floor Area: 210 sqm.
No. 157 Country Drive St., Country Homes Subd., Barrio Soro-Soro, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,065,000

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 665 sqm.
Floor Area: 658.5 sqm.
Lot 9 Quezon St, Poblacion, Cabuyao Laguna
Minimum Bid Price: 4,189,500

LOT 33 - LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 4,395 sqm.
Floor Area: 250 sqm.
No. 386 (Old-No. 4599) Patimbao Road, Brgy. Patimbao, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Minimum Bid Price: 3,300,000

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 381 sqm.
Lot 1, Bo. San Roque, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: 342,900

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 500 sqm.
Lot 17775-C, Bo. San Roque, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: 450,000

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LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MANILA LRT LINE 1 SOUTH EXTENSION PROJECT

INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND CALL FOR REGISTRATION

The Light Rail Transit Authority of the Republic of the Philippines ("LRTA") is inviting local and international companies to express their interest in the prospective global tender for the (i) financing, design, construction and installation of a 12-kilometer southward extension ("Extension") of the existing LRT Line 1 transit system ("Existing Line"), (ii) the integration of the Extension with the Existing Line, (iii) the integrated operation and maintenance of the entire line ("Integrated System"), and (iv) the provision of enhancement works on the Integrated System, under a build-operate-and-transfer and related schemes for a proposed 40-year concession period, inclusive of 4 years of construction (the "Project"). The Extension, shall run from Baclaran, Pasay City, Metro Manila, to the municipality of Bacoor, Province of Cavite, and shall pass through the cities of Parañaque and Las Piñas in Metro Manila.

The Project is being developed and procured following the competitive bidding process prescribed under the Philippine BOT Law (Republic Act No. 6957, as amended) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations ("BOT Law"). LRTA has engaged the International Finance Corporation ("IFC"), the private sector arm of the World Bank, as its transaction advisor for this Project.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the BOT Law and Section 2.5 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, all interested parties are requested to signify their interest and register as possible proponents/bidders/investors by submitting to LRTA at the address indicated below, their letters of intent and company profiles with the following information:

1. Name of proponent/investor
2. Business address / tel. no. / fax no. / email address
3. Number of years in operation
4. Organizational and ownership structure
5. Field of specialization
6. Key personnel (corporate officers and key staff members)
7. List of completed projects (brief description, types of services, location, project cost/contract amount, implementation period, client) and audited financial statement.

All expressions of interest must be submitted on or before October 6, 2006. Duly registered proponents will be entitled to receive relevant and timely Project updates from LRTA.

This invitation or call for registration is not the start of the formal solicitation of bids. The submission of expressions of interest is not a bidding requirement and will not qualify or disqualify potential proponents/bidders/investors from participating in the competitive bidding.

More information regarding this invitation and call for registration may be requested from:

Melquiades A. Robles
Administrator
Light Rail Transit Authority
Administration Bldg., LRTA Compound
Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
Phone: (632) 832-0423
(632) 833-2466
(632) 854-0451
Fax: (632) 831-6449
Email: melrobles@lrta.gov.ph

Engr. Danilo S. Tolentino
Project Manager
Light Rail Transit Authority
PCI Package B Building, LRTA Compound
Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
Telefax: (632) 854-0980
Trunkline: (632) 853-0041 to 60 local 8361
Email: dstlrta@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) **MELQUIADES A. ROBLES**
Administrator

(PDI – Sept. 11, 18 & 25, 2006)

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INVITATION TO BID
BIDDING FOR THE I.T. EQUIPMENT

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, **PhilHealth Regional Office – Caraga** (PRO-Caraga) wishes to invite bidders for the following brand new items with warranties:

33	units	Branded Personal Computers with UPS
4	units	Standalone Laserjet Printer
4	units	Dot Matrix Printer
1	unit	Network Laserjet Printer
1	unit	Network Switch

The Government of the Philippines, through PhilHealth had provided funds for which this invitation is issued. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid is **Php 2,355,000.00.**

All interested parties are invited for the Pre-Bid Conference at the PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga Conference Room, on **September 26, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** The bid documents shall be available starting **September 19 to October 10, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** at the General Services Section, Administrative Division through Ms. Amadel G. Ira, BAC Secretariat Head, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php 6,000.00.**

The bidders shall drop the duly accomplished bid documents in a sealed envelope in the bid box located at the Administrative Division, PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on **October 10, 2006 at 9:30 A.M.** The official time clock shall be the bundy clock located at the One-Stop-Shop of the said Office. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted. **Opening of bids will follow at 10:00 A.M.** of the same day at the Conference Room. Any bidder who comes late will not be accommodated.

The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the **non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.**

The Bid Security shall be in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the approved budget for the contract in the following forms:

Forms of Security of Approved Budget	Minimum Amount % Security for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	PhP 23,550.00
Bank Guarantee	One & a half percent (1 1/2%)	PhP 35,325.00
Surety Bond (GSIS)	Two & a half percent (2 1/2%)	PhP 58,875.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	PhP 2,355,000.00

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos.: (085) 341-1200, 342-6992, 342-6999, 341-1159 local 0.

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PhilHealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO S. GONZALES, MD**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 18 & 25, 2006)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. # 221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Davao City Water District, with the Approved Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum *(see schedule under 2)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contracts as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Davao City Water District now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following:

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	BID SECURITY (1% OF ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
1	DCWD CALENDARS	690,000.00	6,900.00	1,000.00
2	23 UNITS - DATA LOGGER & 2 SETS DATA RETRIEVER & COMMUNICATION (re-bidding)	2,300,000.00	23,000.00	2,000.00
3	VARIOUS COMPUTER SOFTWARES (re-bidding)	450,624.00	4,506.20	1,000.00
4	VARIOUS LINESHAFT & SPIDER GUIDE (re-bidding)	463,500.00	4,635.00	1,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non refundable fee in the amount *(stated in item no.2)*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***October 5, 2006, at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** at ***DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.***
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the ***bidding scheduled time and date at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security*** in the form of *Cash or Manager's check* in the amount *(stated in item no. 2)*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on October 17, 2006, 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the *DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada Davao City
Tel. No. : 221-9400 (8000)
E-mail add : dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
Fax No. : 224-5392
Website : www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICHARD D. TUMANDA**
Vice-Chairperson, BAC-A

(PDI--Sept. 18 & 25, 2006)

City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers/contractors to apply for the following items.

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time Pre-Bid Confernce	Date/Time Deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
1. Drugs and Medicines	P2,979,872.10	Sep. 15, 2006 10:00 AM	Sept. 27, 2006 10:00 AM	P1,000.00

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting **September 11 to 27, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-bid conference shall be held at **City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.**

The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope. In the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division at telephone no. **(062) 992-7763.**

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **DR. MARIO D. ARRIOLA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 11 & 18, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PNOC

Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No.: 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Contract for Provision of Purified Drinking Water in Five-Gallon Containers with Dispenser for FB, SAMDI, and ERDC
EDC 06-122

The approved budget is **PhP 1,431,100.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is **two (2) years.**

Application forms for eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o G.N.F. Cuena) starting **September 18, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Three Hundred (PhP 300.00).**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 22, 2006, 10:00 a.m.** at the BAC Room, 1st Floor, PNOC-EDC Building V.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, 1st Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time)** of **October 4, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) FELICITO A. GESITE
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 18, 2006)

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Surplus and Second-Hand Product Business

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- University Degree
- Proven record of performance

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The Board of Directors, Officers and Employees of

VILLAMAR CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

AND

8 WAVES WATERPARK & HOTEL

Mourn the demise of

MRS. LYDIA DIMLA VILLANGCA

Wife of its President, **ENGR. IRINEO S. VILLANGCA**

She peacefully joined our Lord on September 14, 2006 at the age of 75.

Her remains lie in state at 145 D.R.T. Hi-Way, Ulingao, San Rafael, Bulacan.

We request the pious readers to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Wednesday the 20th of September 2006 at Baliuag Memorial Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Augustine Parish Church, Baliuag, Bulacan.

"My soul finds rest in God alone, my salvation comes from Him; He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken." Psalm 62:1

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1421 Craig St. cor. Ma. Clara St., Sampaloc, Manila or call Analy or Vangie at 732-9599.

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that stock certificates nos. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of **Sealanes Marine Services, Inc.** (the "Corporation") issued in the names of following stockholders:

Issued to	Date Issued	Stock cert. No.	No. of Shares
Rene E. Cristobal	December 29, 1997	16	3,332
Noel A. Laman	December 29, 1997	17	3,332
Jorge L. Dumatol	December 29, 1997	18	3,332
Luzviminda B. Laman	December 29, 1997	19	4
Luzviminda B. Laman	January 1, 2001	20	3
Christopher Dino Dumatol	January 1, 2001	21	1

evidencing their ownership of shares of the Corporation were inadvertently lost. After the expiration of one (1) year from the date of the last publication of this Notice, the Corporation shall cancel in its book said stock certificates which have been lost, and replacement stock certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof, unless the stockholders post a bond in such amount as may be satisfactory to the Board, in which case, new stock certificates may be issued even before the expiration of the one (1) year period.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA L. SALIPSIP**
Corporate Secretary
Sealanes Marine Services, Inc.

(PDI – Sept. 4, 11 & 18, 2006)

NOTICE OF THE DISSOLUTION OF FREDOMAX CORP. BY SHORTENING CORPORATE TERM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON JULY 16, 2006 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS OF FREEDOMAX CORP. APPROVED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATIONS CORPORATE TERM TO END EFFECTIVE JULY 16, 2006. THE APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT OF THE CORPORATIONS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SHORTEN ITS CORPORATE TERM WILL BE FILED WITH SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION. THIS SHALL SERVE AS NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION BY SHORTENING ITS CORPORATE TERM. MARY JEAN ARIMADO, CORPORATE SECRETARY.

(PDI–Sept. 11, 18 & 25, 2006)

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NOTICE

This is to inform the public that the following are the present members of the Board of Directors of EMISSARY RECRUITMENT GROUP, INC.

ANNIE MARIE E. MUNSAYAC – Pres. & CEO/Chairman (since 2002)
GINA MARIE E. FAUSTINO – Director / CorSec. (since 2005)
FATAH T. RASUL – Director/Treasurer (since 2003)
MARCIANO M. SAYO – Director (since 2004)
JOCELYN S. TUAZON – Director (New Director – 2006)

This publication is in compliance with the requirement of the POEA

The Management

(PDI – September 18, 2006)

Marian pilgrimage

MSGR JOSEFINO S. Ramirez, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Manila and Rector of the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, will lead a group on a Marian Pilgrimage of Europe from Oct. 17 to 31.

Highlight of the pilgrimage is the International Convention of the Confradia da Imaculada- Fatima of which Msgr. Ramirez is the national spiritual director for the Philippines.

The group will also experience touching moments in Lourdes, Fatima and Santiago de Compostela, three of the most popular pilgrimage centers in the world and visit Madrid, Montserrat, Barcelona, Lisbon, Zaragoza, Covadonga, Salamanca, Porto, and Oviedo, an itinerary distinguished not only for the religious sites but also for very attractive sightseeing.

As visa processing takes long, reservation should be made now by calling 521-1638 or 5211698.

CSC reminds public of Sept. 22 application deadline for career exams

INTERESTED APPLICANTS, especially those from Metro Manila, have until Sept. 22 to file their applications for the Career Service Professional and Subprofessional Examinations-Paper and Pencil Test, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said.

This, in view of the CSC central office who has earlier announced that it would no longer accept applications for the Career Service Examination-Computer Assisted Test (CAT) during the supposed September 25 schedule and until the end of the year. The CSC said the quota for CAT examinees until December 2006 has already been reached. Announcement shall later be made on when the CSC central office would start accepting CAT exam applications for next year.

The Career Service Professional and Subprofessional examinations are open to applicants who are Filipino citizens and at least 18 years old, regardless of educational attainment. All applicants of the Paper-and-Pencil Test are strongly advised to personally file their exam applications at any CSC Regional or Field Office. Application requirements include: a] Properly accomplished application form (CS Form No. 100, Revised 2005) available at all CSC regional and field offices, and at the CSC website www.csc.gov.ph; b] Four copies of recent (not more than three months) and identical passport sized I.D. pictures with full name tag; c] Original and photocopy of one valid I.D.; and d] Examination fee of P350.

More Classifieds

Presidential Broadcast Station
Overseas Workers Welfare Adminsitration
Metro Roxas Water District
on page A34

Professional Regulation Commission
Zamboanga City Water District
on page B6

VMV Group of Companies
on page A22

Power costs still worry exporters

Group says Palace may have to step in to avert possible crisis

By Ronnel W. Domingo

HIGH ELECTRICITY COSTS AND dwindling generation capacity remain some of the biggest factors that make it harder for people to do business in the Philippines compared to other countries in Asia, said a group of exporters.

And addressing these concerns may also require emergency measures or even direct government intervention, the group added.

According to the Philippine Export Confederation, a private sector team tasked to make an action agenda related to power concerns has concluded in a recent meeting that a quick study must be made on whether a power crisis does threaten the country.

"If the answer to that question is yes, the task force is set to recommend for the President to declare a state of emergency so that the problem will be solved with dispatch," Philexport said.

The business leaders said the cost of electricity in the Philippines was still very high—second only to Japan in the whole of Asia.

Organizers of the National Competitiveness Summit to be held later this month believe that solving this particular problem will enhance the country's ability to compete for investments and markets, Philexport said.

Also, the group noted that the reliability of power supply was an equally urgent issue considering that no new power plant has been built after the term of President Fidel V. Ramos.

Philexport said that the team pointed out that generation costs, transmission costs and distribution costs could still be greatly reduced.

The bulk of the high power rates were traced to generation, which make up between 60 and 67 percent of the bill that end users pay, Philexport said.

As for transmission costs, the team said the National Transmission Corp. was also charging "very high" rates of P1 a kWh which business leaders believe was based on the rate-setting system that was "too much and uncompetitive."

The team also blamed the 12-percent value-added tax plus other taxes that make up about 17 percent of the electricity bills.

"Distributors like the Manila Electric Co., with high systems losses ... can absorb their losses instead of passing this on to consumers," Philexport said.

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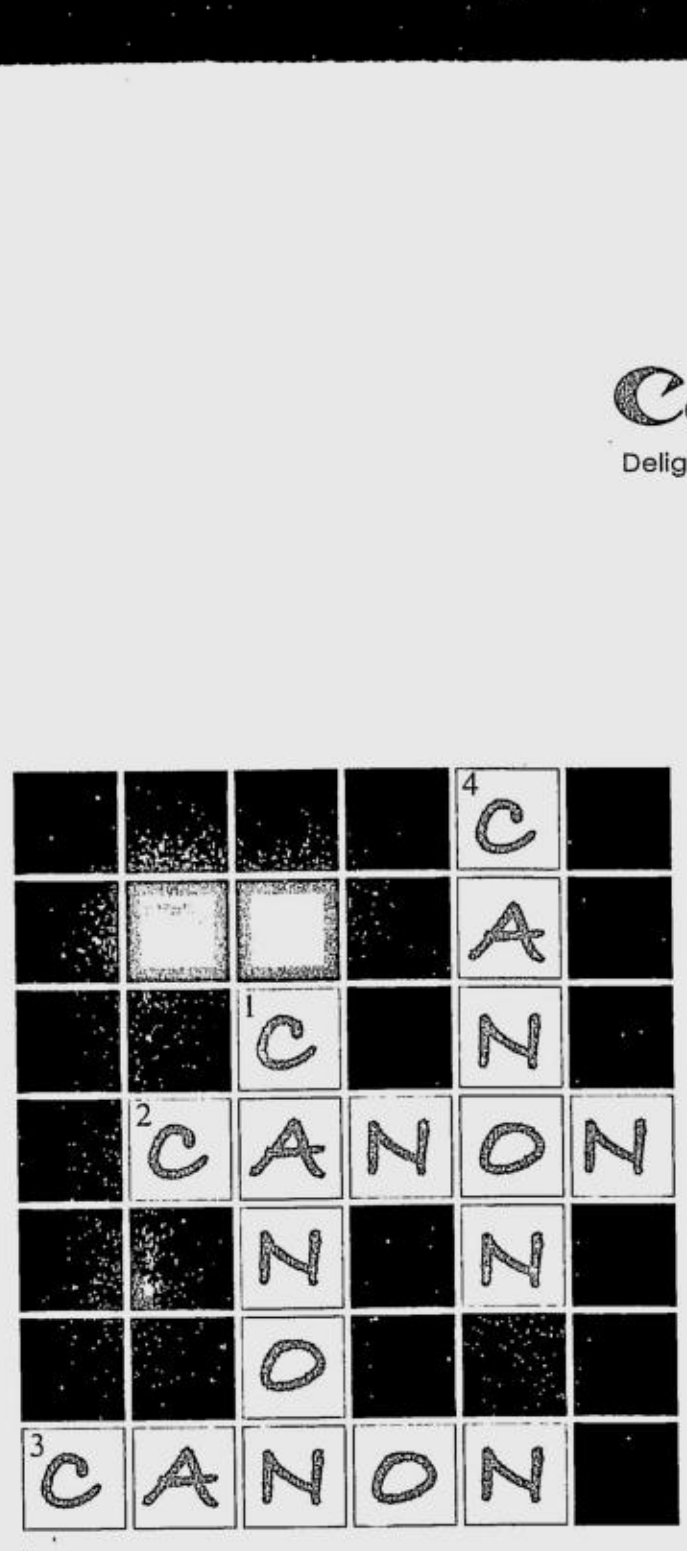

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Pistahan Building, McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando City, Pampanga
Tel No. (045) 961-6496 Fax No. (045) 961-8239

Legaspi Branch
Door 7 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lapu-Lapu St., Legaspi City, Bicol
Tel No. (052) 820-2083. Fax No (052) 480-6331

Cebu Branch
Door 10, IP & 20 Free Star Arcade, Herman St., Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tel No. (032) 345-3821 Fax No. (032) 344-6776

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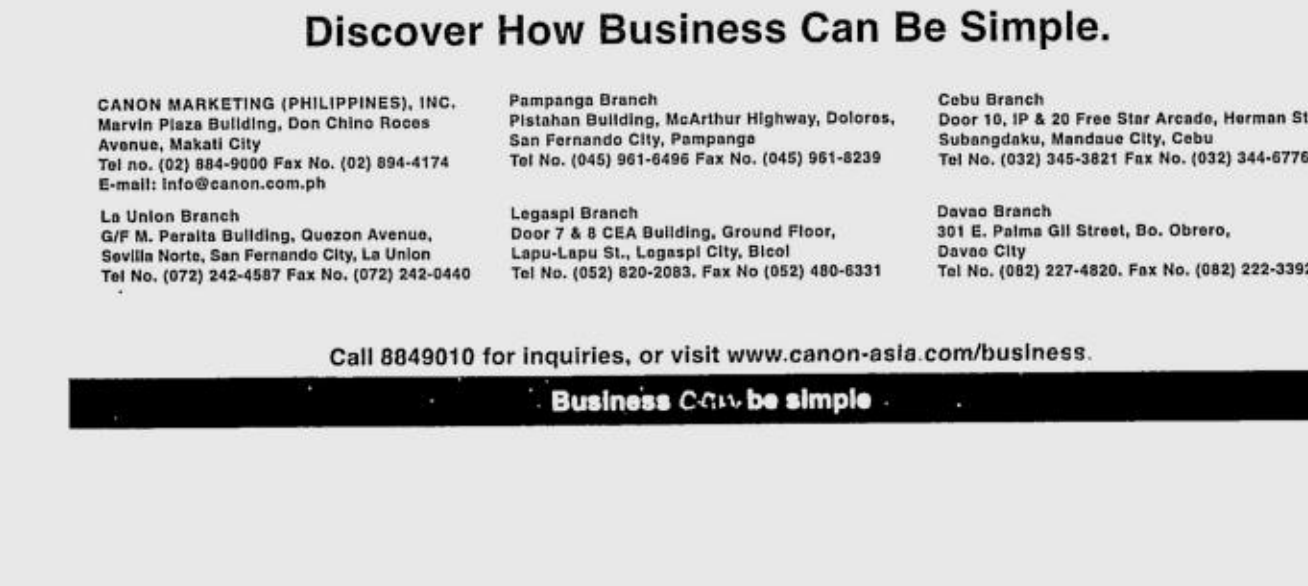

THE CHANGING RULES OF THE GAME

October 4, 2006 Wednesday 8am-5pm
InterContinental Manila Ballroom

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For online registration and other event information go to ***http://ateneoblf.registration.ph***

"Transforming the Landscape of Retail Banking"
Aurelio R. Montinola, III
President and CEO, Bank of the Philippine Islands

How do you innovate in an industry that is by nature conservative and tradition-bound? BPI has transformed the landscape of retail banking in the Philippines with its groundbreaking efforts to provide 24/7 access to key banking services. From BPI Express branches to shopping mall kiosks to internet banking, this bank has brought the concept of customer service to a whole new level in the banking industry. Listen to the architect of BPI's retail masterplan as he talks about the strategy for innovation that has earned them the award as the Best Retail Bank in the Philippines for 2005.

"Coke-busters: The C2 Success Story"
Bienvenido S. Bautista
Executive Vice President and Managing Director, URC Branded Consumer Foods Group (Phils.) & URC International Indonesia

Life was good for cola drinks, but then C2 came along. Unknown in the market a few scant years ago, this unassuming green tea drink is now a household name and the fastest growing beverage product in the country. Find out how URC came up with its winning formula for breaking into a saturated beverage market that has long been dominated by cola drinks. Discover the exciting story of how C2 catapulted to the top of the heap through its innovative product and market strategy, creating room for itself and a whole new product category in what was thought to be a fully-saturated market.

"How Moto Got Back its Mojo"
Patrick D. Aronson
Country Manager, Motorola Philippines

In the Philippines, one brand was considered synonymous to "cellphone". And that brand was not Motorola. At least, not until Moto came to town. It is not an enviable task to be in charge of selling a product in a market that is totally dominated, even monopolized, by a single, bestselling, competing brand. Find out firsthand from Patrick Aronson how Motorola came up with, and executed, the winning strategy that has earned them market share against the most daunting competition, and made the RAZR one of the must-have gadgets of this generation.

"Creating a Haven in the Metropolis: Greenbelt 3's Winning Strategy"
Jaime I. Ayala
President and CEO, Ayala Land, Inc.

Parks and large, open spaces are not the usual images associated with the term "shopping mall". But Greenbelt 3 in Makati's Central Business District teems with trees and innovative retail concepts. It was Jaime Ayala's intrepid vision that made possible the construction of this groundbreaking mall. The award-winning architecture has since reinvented standards for local mall design, proof that profit and environmentally sensitive design are not mutually exclusive. Learn from the top honcho of Ayala Land himself how Greenbelt 3 boldly transcended the conventional concept of a mall to reinvent the way Filipinos think about malls, and recreation.

"An Ad to Remember: Squeezing the Most Out of Your Advertising Peso"
David B. Guerrero
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer, BBDO Guerrero Ortega

What is the best Philippine ad that you have seen recently? Was it wildly creative? Did it move you to action? Was it simply unforgettable? Chances are, that ad was created by BBDO Guerrero Ortega, an agency known for its out-of-the-box advertising. A slew of accolades from prestigious local and international award-giving bodies attest to the quality of their efforts, including the Philippines' first-ever Silver Lion award at the 2005 Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival. At a time when resources are getting more and more limited, we can't afford to throw money away on bad advertising. David Guerrero, the agency's creative genius, will show how simple ideas can become memorable ad campaigns by throwing guts and imagination into the mix.

"The Brand Matters More than the New"
Dr. Joerg Breuer
President, BMW Philippines

How do you make a luxury car available to a broader market without diluting the value of the brand? How do you achieve market growth in an economy that is not growing?

Running a car company in these trying times is like driving a Formula 1 vehicle down a narrow race track: each step requires great precision while one continuously seeks higher levels of performance. There is absolutely no room for error. Under Dr. Breuer's deft leadership, BMW Philippines has traversed the trickiest race track, successfully launching its Certified Pre-owned and other innovative programs to reach a wider and younger market while maintaining BMW's premiere status in the luxury car market. Find out why a luxury car company decided to go after the second hand market and what this has done for the organization from the man responsible for engineering these programs, and steering BMW into pole position.

BUSINESSMonday

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Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Aussie goes on tour of duty in RP

'Think customer' is one of new bank head's guiding principles

CITIBANK Philippines' Mark C. Jones

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS Australian Mark C. Jones did when he arrived in the Philippines last February to take over Citibank Philippines' Global Consumer Bank was to visit the financial giant's local branches and personally talk to the customers.

He wanted to know straight from them how else they wanted Citibank to further improve its services on the credit card, savings bank and personal loans fronts and make the 'Citibanking experience' more worthwhile.

"Think customer" is one of Jones's guiding principles.

"Citibank has always been known for service," Jones, 41, tells the INQUIRER in an interview, "but competition has been catching up, so we have to see how else we can improve our services."

By doing so, Citibank hopes to maintain its dominance of the credit card industry and make serious inroads into the burgeoning consumer banking market.

Jones says the prospect of heading a Citibank unit that is a dominant player in the local market was one of the factors that convinced him to come over to the Philippines to take up the position of country business manager of Citibank Philippines' Global Consumer Bank.

Jones, however, is no stranger to the Philippines.

The certified public accountant and Macquarie University graduate was here before, first when he used to be in the gas distribution business and then at Citibank Australia, where he used to be a director of the retail banking arm of the Global Consumer Bank.

Now that he is tasked to steer the Philippines' Global Consumer Bank for the next few years, Jones says he will focus his energies to meet his leadership challenge on four major points: Innovation, expert service, global leadership and being an employer of

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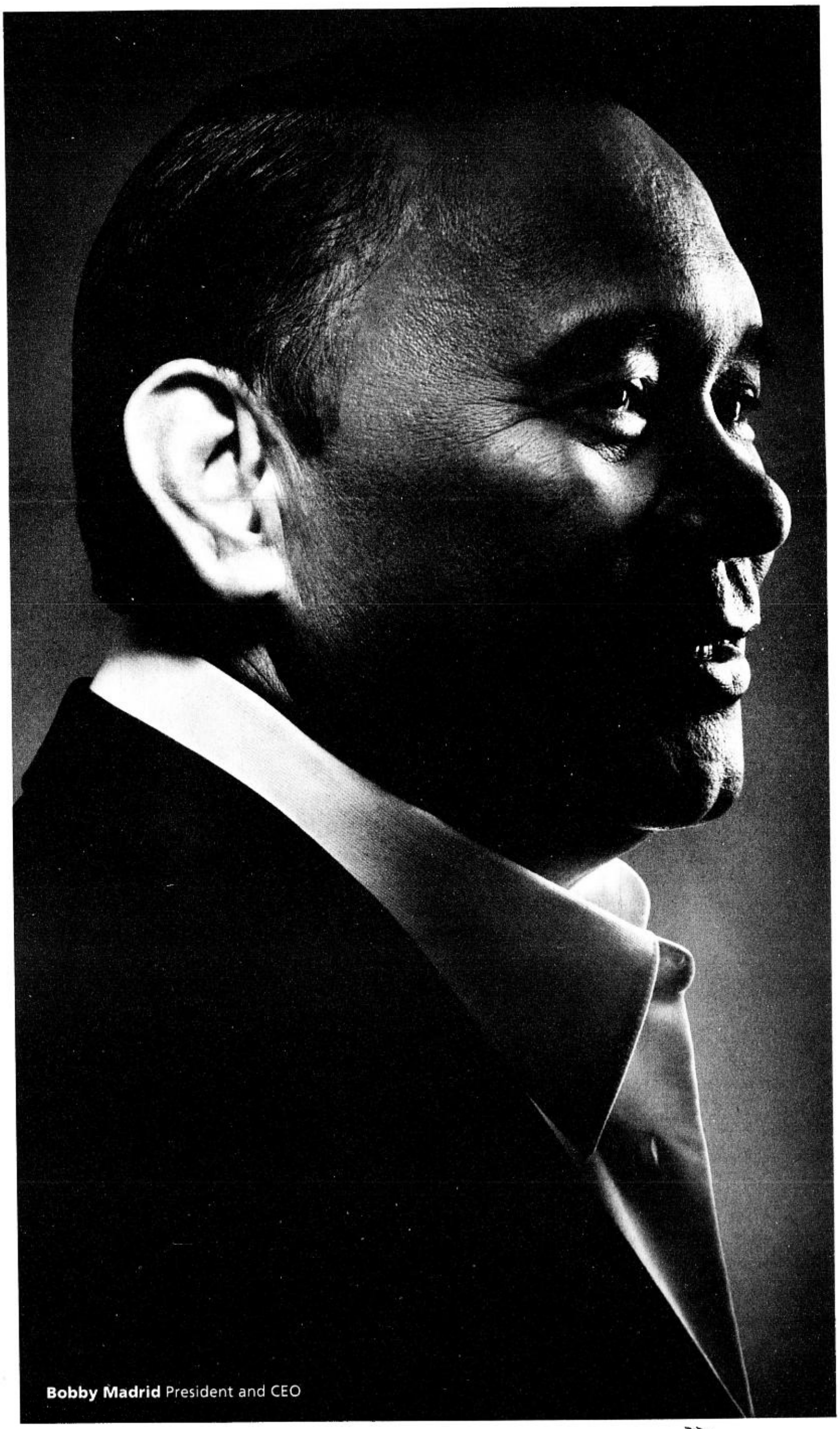

Bobby Madrid President and CEO

PRU LIFE UK 10th anniversary A decade devoted to listening

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The Philippines 2030 business roadmap

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Evelyn R. Singson

SIX MONTHS AGO, THE MANagement Association of the Philippines accepted the challenge to craft the Business Sector Roadmap to 2030.

MAP volunteered to produce the working drafts and present these to the bigger business community for its review, revisions, critique, suggestions and ultimately its approval.

It was easy to get MAP volunteers to join this task force and we were not surprised that we successfully enlisted 26 CEOs, some of whom were cabinet members of this and past administrations, but all of them experts in their fields.

Together, the combined experience of this committee spanned the whole spectrum of Philippine business, and many were likewise active members of other business organizations bringing immediately to the table the concerns, challenges and aspirations of these organizations.

Long-term strategy

During the weekly meetings, we realized that the only way out of this morass is to look beyond today and focus on a long-term strategy of creating opportunities for the individual Filipino and giving him the choice and the chance to lift out of poverty.

Such noble aim has received the support and endorsement of the different business organizations who worked with MAP on the roadmap.

The culmination of the first phase of this roadmap, although we realize this will always be a work in progress.

We start with our proposed statement of vision and mission for Philippine Business 2030.

"The Vision of Philippine Business is to be globally competitive and to be the primary driver of economic, environmental and social growth and development through honest and honorable wealth creation, enlightened entrepreneurship and equitable income distribution consistent with ethical and responsible citizenship."

In short: global, entrepreneurial, responsible, ethical.

We are to live by these core values if we are to achieve our vision/mission and these are: transparency, teamwork, responsible citizenship, innovation, ethics, excellence and discipline.

Core values

We wish to explain why we chose these values above others as the imperatives for the accomplishment of our desired visions.

Transparency is always paired with fairness and accountability and simply put, it is being truthful in what we say and do.

Transparency implies that business has the responsibility to fully disclose information, without fear or reservation and without benefit to special groups.

If business will be transparent, it can demand that government do the same.

Teamwork can be achieved if we share objectives. It collapses when we put personal interest in the forefront.

Responsible citizenship means going beyond our own turf, minding our neighbors and our environment and creating a positive impact wherever we invest or operate.

Corporate philanthropy

Corporate philanthropy and corporate social responsibility are now integral parts of corporate citizenship.

Big businessmen now build not only companies but also schools, foundations, sporting teams, housing for the poor, hospitals and other social projects.

Innovation is the solution we need to jumpstart and leapfrog our competitive indices as our country has fallen behind other countries that just a few years back tailed behind us.

We have to break the fall and reverse the trend by being the best where we can be competitive.

We cannot continue to grow at meager rates if we expect to get our poverty level down or if we wish to build a strong middle class.

The passion for excellence is a national core value for ISA and must specially be adopted by business as its own.

Globalization will no longer tolerate the usual "*puwede na*" mentality.

Our culture must encourage, if not demand, quality people and quality institutions.

Role models

Our role models must be people and businesses who demonstrate excellence in the way they comport themselves, in the way they exercise their profession and in the way they conduct their business.

Ethical behavior must be restored as a strong value and doing right must be its own reward. For too long, our society has rewarded the wrong people and the wrong businesses.

We have admired companies that have raked huge profits even if they denuded our forests or polluted our waters.

We are no longer scandalized by high-living individuals who pay little or no taxes or powerful government officials who have used power to amass undeserved wealth.

Unless we correct this misguided admiration for the material, without considering the spiritual, we cannot encourage the passion for excellence.

And lastly, discipline.

Discipline is the mark of a civilized society because it is premised on respecting the rights of others.

It is order, not chaos; it is following the rules, not for fear of being caught, but because it is the right thing.

Discipline must be a way of life, not an aberration. But discipline can only be enforced if there is an effective reward and penalty system.

Guiding principles

We explain our mission/ vision and core values because they are the guiding principles in the crafting of the Business Roadmap.

We started by examining the objectives of ISA on the six perspectives of nation building.

We, the business sector, fully concur with the 12 objectives by ISA and added 9 more of our own.

Let me enumerate and explain the 9 additional objectives:

We added quality of life to merely benefiting from the fruits of development.. Development should not come at any price.

We aim for balanced growth—where the Filipino can live and work safely, breath unpolluted air, eat healthy food, travel efficiently, avail of quality education, enjoy basic freedom befitting of the dignity of a human being.

We have to think of sustainable and reliable ways of delivering growth without prejudice to equally important factors constituting good quality of life.

From the financial perspective, we want the Filipino to be gainfully employed whenever and wherever he wishes and to keep this in focus, we added three inter-related objectives: equitable distribution of income; adequate job creation and effective poverty alleviation.

Temporary relief

Our present "brain drain" should be viewed only as a temporary relief to remove the pressure of unemployment brought about by lack of job opportunities in the country.

Our people should work abroad because they are globally in demand for their skills, competence and work ethic and not because they are forced to leave, under unfavorable circumstances.

But our ultimate goal though is to bring the production of goods and services back to the country and make these the foundation of an entrepreneurial society and the economic base for development and growth.

Love of country and family should be the motivating force that will entice our overseas workers to make the most out of their training abroad and to apply acquired technical innovations and advancement to building and running new industries that can [illegible] third parties.

From the standpoint of infrastructure, the business sector wishes to extend connectivity specially to the rural areas so that the Filipino residing in remote locations can participate in the benefits of technology while challenging the creativity that would otherwise remain latent if they cannot be part of technologically enhanced community.

Competitiveness ranking

Business sector also wants to benchmark bureaucracy or the ease of doing business against our regional neighbors.

In the competitiveness ranking, our country ranks 113 in a spectrum of 155 countries surveyed, showing how complicated and time consuming it is to start or do business in the country.

We have to reduce red tape, aggravated by unenlightened LGUs who do not have the foresight to quantify the benefits of business friendliness.

Business will take a high stake on education and will be fully supportive of continually improving literacy, encouraging research and development which are parents to innovation.

Education is the single biggest essential to our progress, not only economically but also politically. It will be the solution to the seemingly paralyzing problems we face as a country.

Thus if the emphasis of business on education seems "overweight," it only reflects its thinking that it is a fundamental requisite in achieving all the other goals we aspire for.

The business sector will take a brave step to convince government to concentrate on creating the environment of stability, predictability and noninterference and allow business to fend for itself in a free market environment. Government must get out of business and stick to governance.

Tracking results

The objectives we enumerate are measurable with metrics and indices generated by independent third parties.

Hence, we can track results as reflected by economic indicators, literacy rates, quality of life indices and various scorecards.

We also have indicated 39 initiatives that the business sector can adopt and integrate into every firm's actionable commitment to the Roadmap.

Some examples are: To assist DepEd and CHEd upgrade school curricula, to promote the culture of excellence in their own organizations or to provide livelihood and entrepreneurial training to their employees, among many.

We selected 10 sub-sectors (agribusiness, tourism, healthcare, ICT, education, power, infrastructure, transportation, mining and OFW) which are generally conceded to be the lead growth sectors to do their own roadmaps, aligning these to the national business roadmap.

We shall consolidate and submit these to the ISA.

The design of this roadmap while extremely tedious proved exhilarating and inspiring to the AdHoc Committee who could not contain its satisfaction at the enthusiastic response received from the expert-volunteers.

Tough task

It was to them a solid contribution to the task of planning and engineering the building of a nation.

The tougher task is to get the business organizations to go beyond "praises and accolades" for an excellent roadmap.

Business must accept to adopt the roadmap's objectives and initiatives as their own; to monitor how their member firms are buying-in and if the desired timetables are met so that the 2030 end goal is reached, not breached.

The MAP thanks ISA for the honor and privilege of spearheading this task and we are confident the entire business community will see the wisdom of uniting behind the roadmap.

(Speech delivered by the author during the ISA Conference on 30 August 2006. The author is President of the Management Association of the Philippines and eBusiness Services, Inc. Feedback at <mapsec@globenet.com.ph>)

Aussie goes on tour...

From page B2-1

choice.

On innovation, Jones says Citibank will continue to launch products relevant to the market and keep in step with customers' changing wants and needs.

Expert service, on the other hand, means enabling customers and even noncustomers to better plan for their financial future.

"We are highly committed to financial education," Jones says, "simply put, it's a natural extension of the work we do, and allows us to address audiences that are not necessarily our clients."

"Citibank sees financial education as being all about helping consumers, whether individuals or communities, small businesses or large institutions, even not-for-profit organizations, actively look after their money and their financial future," he adds.

Jones also intends to bring the best of Citibank's global practices to the Philippines, and then introduce the best practices in the Philippines to the rest of the world.

He cites Shell Citibank MasterCard, a partnership that was first forged in the Philippines and the PayLite installment program, which has been replicated in other countries.

Finally, Jones says he wants Citibank in the Philippines to be a company that the employees will enjoy working for.

"We put our people first, and we're deeply committed to make Citi a great place to work in," Jones says, "as someone described it, being in Citibank is like running your own company, but with resources."

Jones says he is fortunate to have a dedicated team at Citibank to whom he will turn to for help in achieving what he has set out to do in this tour of duty.

JONES says he is ready to take on his leadership challenge

He says he did not have to adjust too much to work with his management team, although he says in jest that he has been told that he talks too fast.

Jones towers over his staff, standing over six feet tall, and his accent can sometimes get in the way.

But his ready smile and affable nature allow this husband and father of three to draw out his people's thoughts during discussions.

"People in Australia are more blunt," Jones says, "here, I have to make sure that I am able to draw out what people are really thinking."

And when he does, he is assured that they are all on the same page, that they all agree on what they want for the bank, and that is for it to keep its hold on its current market and venture into new ones.

Experience a different kind of high

WHEN YOU'RE STANDING BEfore a structure that's 40 feet high, the last thing you would want to do is climb it. But that's exactly what you're expected to do with the High-Y. Not just climb it, mind you, but to cross to the other side using the connecting rope, stretched to form a reclining letter Y. The distance you need to cross is 7 meters. That's 7 meters of free space—many, many feet above the ground.

What is High-Y?

The High-Y is the newest teambuilding facility at the Meralco Management and Leadership Development Center or MMLDC along Sumulong Highway in Antipolo where leaders in various fields of endeavors learn how to become more effective managers and communicators.

Aside from MMLDC's function rooms and amenities, the center has an outdoor teambuilding facility equipped with various rope courses and is surrounded by nature.

"The High-Y is a structure used to carry out different personal development and teambuilding activities that consist of high elements. It is part of the teambuilding 'high course' that includes the facility for rappelling, slide-for-life and the high wall," explained Jaja Belir, MMLDC's lead facilitator and consultant for teambuilding, who is also head of Meralco's General Education team.

The High-Y consists of two separate 40-ft. posts with a Y-shaped connection made of thick ropes. "The effect on the participant is significant because before he climbs, he feels as if he's faced with a big risk—the psychological impact is tremendous," said Jaja.

CROSSING the High-Y: 40 feet above ground

"But once you finish the course, wow, what an accomplishment!" exclaimed Jaja. "You're up against your own fears. You really have to believe in yourself!"

People who have tried the High-Y can't easily forget the experience. Those who are able to finish the course are happy; they enjoy the euphoria that comes with doing something that they initially thought they wouldn't be able to do.

The activities involving the High-Y could help individuals and groups work towards the following objectives: Managing fears, reducing inhibitions, breaking down barriers, demonstrating trust in oneself and others, facing emotional issues like fear of failure, and forming win-win relationships (through cooperation and sharing). "The activities will also test a person's physical strength, stamina, agility, balance and flexibility," she said.

Helping people and teams

MMLDC's academic services department has developed a number of activities and procedures that make use of the High-Y. The activities are chosen depending on the teambuilding objectives of each group.

Tandem climbing, for example, gives the participants the opportunity to develop a stronger sense of cooperation and sharing. "You have to share the rope and finish together, or both of you won't finish," Jaja explained.

The High-Y is perfect for call center employees, medical representatives, and those in sales. "It would fit participants that belong in highly-competitive organizations. It is also very suitable for young people who are into sports and physical activities," she added.

The presence of the High-Y is a proof of the continuing improvements at MMLDC to help more groups and companies reach their full potential.

If your group, organization or company want to experience a one-of-a-kind teambuilding, call MMLDC at 632-8111, or visit website: www.mmldc.org. MMLDC is located at Km. 27, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City.

Discover new creative ideas at Pana's 2006 MBA Series

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING industry practitioners, entrepreneurs and students have the opportunity to broaden their know-how, further sharpen their skills and create bigger businesses as the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) presents "Creativity Unleashed," the 2006 Pana Marketing and Brand Advancement (MBA) Series from Oct. 5 to 6 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

The 2006 MBA Series tackles creative marketing successes as explained by those who realized and achieved them.

Backroom president and managing director Boy Abunda will talk about Building Celebrity Brands, Unilever's Dondi Gomez speaks on Think Big & Stretching Your Imagination: The Unilever Way of Creative Brand-Building, and Nestlé corporate wellness manager Liza Yap will talk about Nestlé Chooses Wellness.

Jadeline Tulio, HBC VP for operations, will stress the importance of adding magic to retail marketing via "HBC: Secret of Beautifying a Brand Image."

Understanding media research and creative planning is also key to success. Nielsen Media Research executive director Jay Bautista will discuss Reading Between The Media Research Numbers and Starcom Mediavest Group managing director Lizelle Maralag will talk on Media Efficiency: Creativity in Using Advertising Resources.

Find out how to use new alternative media to your advantage with "Reality TV Sells Better than Fiction" with Lauren Dyogi, Pinoy Big Brother director and business unit head, Entertainment Production, ABS-CBN; "Hot Media Buttons for Fashion & Retail" with creative entrepreneur Marlon Rivera; and "Untangling the Web: The Quest to be the Top Internet Company" with Tiwa York, managing director of New Media Worldwide.

Call the Pana Secretariat at 894-0474 to 75 or 894-0012 to 13, fax at 894-0472/1515, e-mail at email@pana.com.ph, or log on at www.pana.com.ph.

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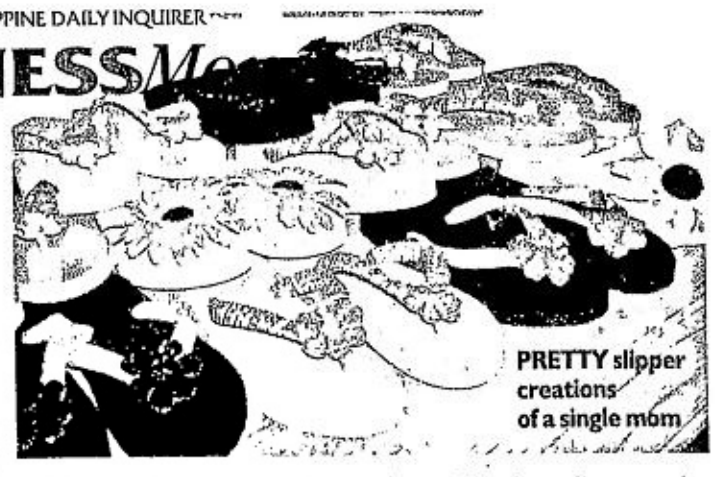
PRETTY slipper creations of a single mom

Text and photos by Joselle Badilla
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—SHIRLEY TAGLInao, a single parent and retired government employee, ventured into the fashion slippers business in 2005 with borrowed capital of just P5,000.

Her gamble paid off as after just a month, she was hitting sales of P50,000.

She would not have been able to do it without the help of the Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran (SEA-K) livelihood project of Rep. Prospero Nograles and the City Social Service Development Office.

Taglinao and 30 other women from Barangay 24-C here who wanted to put up their own business banded together and got a combined P150,000 in seed money.

The money was divided equally among the members and is payable in one year without interest.

Taglinao used her share to pursue her slippers business.

Starting

Taglinao tells the INQUIRER that she used her money to buy her first three dozen pairs of slippers, a glue gun and colored threads.

She then started designing the slippers right after dinner and would end around 2 a.m. the following morning.

"Those slippers I bought, I exclusively designed one by one. I don't have any assistant," she says in an interview.

She then presented her slippers to a mall here.

"NCCC first ordered three dozen pairs of slippers. My price for each pair is less than a hundred pesos," Taglinao says.

After her initial delivery was sold, NCCC ordered some more from Taglinao.

Her slippers clicked, particularly among those who wanted to be fashionable but could not afford the more expensive brands of flip-flops, which have become permanent fixtures of women's—and even men's—closets.

She said people were looking for an alternative, like buying cheap, but uniquely designed, flip-flops.

Taglinao labored into the night and delivered more pairs to NCCC. Her product became a hit.

"One week after that, they placed another order," she says.

More outlets

Earning about P9,000 in just one delivery came as a surprise for Taglinao, and it only encouraged her to further expand.

Taglinao said her daughter has also started helping her by looking for more outlets, like a friend's boutique.

She adds that during a reunion with her *balikbayan* friends, she was able to sell a couple more pairs as souvenirs.

"A friend later told me that she sold the slippers she bought at P650 a pair when she got home," she says.

"Another friend of mine bought some items before she went home to California. She sold it there and saw some of them being used by women in discos," she says.

Today, Taglinao continues to design slippers inside her residence while occasionally tending to her two grandchildren.

"I think it has become a habit. It is already part of my daily routine. I call them my fashion slippers," she says.

SHIRLEY Taglinao started with three dozen pairs of slippers, a glue gun, thread.

HK-trained architects expand RP operations

K. DIGNO "DING" ASUNCION RECENTLY became an active partner of Asuncion-Berenguer Inc., an architectural and interior design practice based in the Philippines led by principals with extensive experience in various undertakings in the region.

A founder of Asuncion Berenguer Inc. together with wife Isabel Berenguer-Asuncion in 1997, Ding worked with Belle Corp. for planning and development from 1995 until recently as part of the pioneering team that designed and developed the much acclaimed Tagaytay Highlands.

He was part of the team that created the master plan and the architectural design of The Woodlands at Tagaytay Highlands. Known to be the first large-scale loghouse development in the country, the project is set on a 40-hectare property on rolling terrain. Masterplanning the 120-unit project required that each loghouse enjoy a "view corridor" overlooking the Highlands golf course, Laguna de Bay and its natural surroundings.

He was also involved in the conceptual architectural designs for other Tagaytay Highlands landmarks such as The Spa and Lodge, 176-unit The Belleview, 170-unit The Pine Ridge; and The Sports Center including the conceptual master plan of The Plantation Hills, The Parks at Saratoga Hills and The Verandas, among others.

Prior to Belle, Ding worked in Hong Kong with one of the largest architectural practices in the US, Architects Hawaii Far East. He later moved to S' International Architects Ltd. with affiliated offices in London, Paris, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney. He was also a managing director of Tectonic Designs Ltd., Hong Kong which produced residential, corporate and commercial designs with projects in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shanghai.

His seven-year HK stint allowed Ding to work on a wide spectrum of international projects including commercial, residential, corporate and institutional projects as well as clubs, spas, hotels, resorts for clients from Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, China, France and the United Kingdom.

His experiences significantly boost the creative and technical capability of Asuncion Berenguer Inc. which was principally managed by Isabel Berenguer-Asuncion. Isabel likewise worked in Hong Kong and participated in the planning of landmark projects in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia and China. ABI's roster of clients includes Ayala Land, Filinvest Land, Tagaytay Highlands, Bank of the Philippine Islands, PCCW, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Ambergris Solutions and Discovery Suites.

The architectural and interior design practice has competed against regional design firms in a number of significant projects in the Philippines. ABI is distinguished by its contemporary design approach and its ability to create and deliver design surprise and excitement in different environments. It provides comprehensive planning and design solutions from inception to post-construction.

DING and Isabel Asuncion

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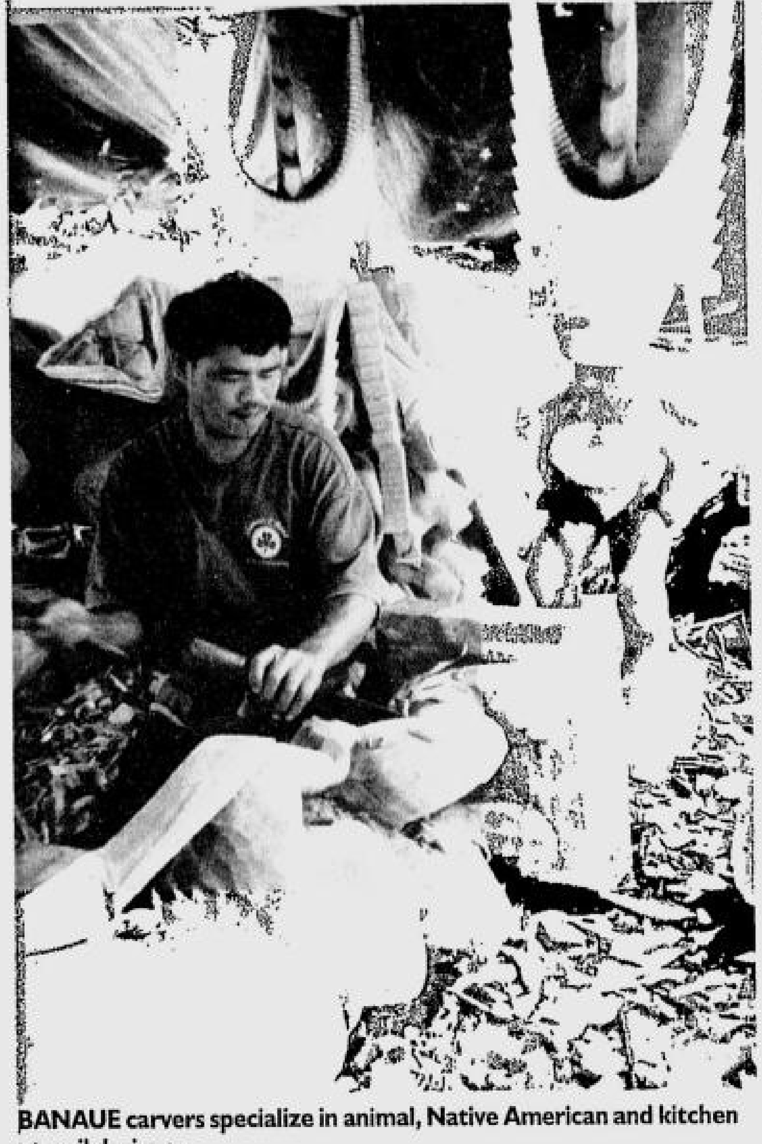
From rice to wood: Tale of a successful woodcarver



BANAUE carvers specialize in animal, Native American and kitchen utensil designs.

Text and photos by EV Espiritu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TUBA, BENGUET—Victor Bumanghat, 47, only finished Grade 1 due to extreme poverty that he and his family underwent in their hometown of Banaue in Ifugao.

More often than not, the piece of land the family owned in the payuh (rice terraces), yielded only 10 sacks of palay (equivalent to two cavans of milled rice)—barely enough to feed a brood of 10 children.

Members of his family turned to eating *kamoteng lanot* or *kamoteng baging* (sweet potatoes) every day to sustain them.

At 13, Bumanghat, who by then had honed his skills as an *agpapaet* (woodcarver), decided to leave Banaue and try his luck in other places to help provide for his family.

He learned woodcarving from his father, a farmer who dabbles in carving when he is not working in the payuh.

His search for a better life brought him to Asin village here in the 1970s. At that time, nearby Baguio was a flourishing tourist center where wood products and native crafts from Ifugao were traded.

A WOODCARVER hard at work—one of many now answering the huge demand for "Hawaiian Tiki" designs that are exported to Hawaii.

Bumanghat found employment as an extra hand in one of the woodcarving shops that flourished along Km 3 to Km 6 of Asin Road.

Hard work and perseverance enabled Bumanghat to finally put rice back on his family's dining table. Later, he put up his own woodcarving store where his skillful hands created pieces that proudly reflected his Ifugao heritage and culture.

He met his wife in Asin and raised his children in the community of woodcarvers here. His earnings supported the education of his three children, two of whom had finished college while the youngest is in high school.

Bumanghat, who could barely read and write, said his two children taught him to write a few Ilocano lines and to understand a few English words and phrases.

Bumanghat is only one of many skilled woodcarvers in Ifugao who found a better life in Asin. Most of them, especially those from the village of Hapao in Ifugao, were forced by poverty to leave their communities.

Murita Bandao, 41, owner of Monette's Handicrafts, says her ancestors were forced to leave Hapao when Japanese soldiers set up a garrison there during World War II.

The Japanese, she says, destroyed their payuh and butchered their farm animals so many of them left and established communities in Asin, in Camp 7 along Kennon Road and in Sablan town.

When they settled in the outskirts of Baguio, the Ifugaos brought along their skills in woodcarving, which made Asin Road a popular stop for tourists.

The pioneers of the trade here in the 1950s created wooden utensils like spoons, plates, bowls, and shields and spears that were snapped up by tourists. Americans living in the city also supported the trade as they gave the woodcarvers ideas on various designs that included deities, animal and human figures, and religious items. Some carvings were also suited as furniture pieces.

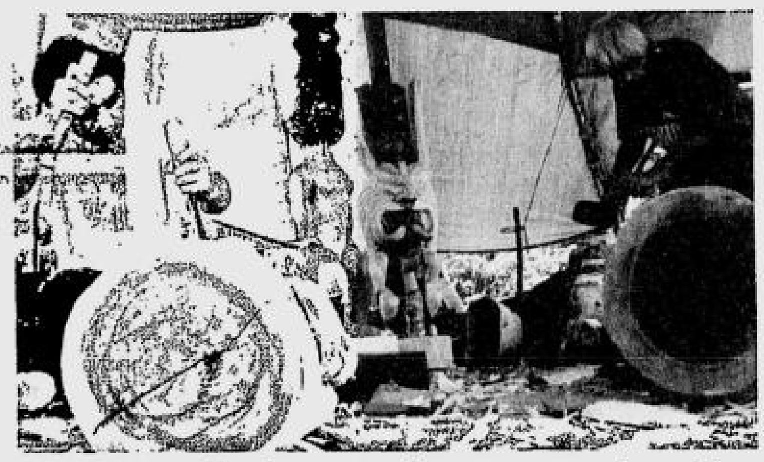
But the industry faced a difficult problem in the 1970s when trees that they used in the business started to dwindle in the area. This started another wave of migration that saw Ifugao woodcarvers leaving for Olongapo City, Aurora and Quezon, where kamagong was abundant. Some settled in Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela, where rosewood could be sourced.

In the 1980s, many skilled carvers went to the United States, the United Kingdom, the Middle East and Japan where they found employment as kitchen staff of various hotels and restaurants.

There they found another use for their skills, as they once again used their hands in carving vegetables and ice that became centerpieces in various events abroad.

VICTOR Bumanghat starts work early in the morning, carving up wood in his stall along Asin Road in Tuba, Benguet.

A WOMAN shows the difference between the Paete (left) and Ifugao (right) horse designs. The Ifugao carving happens to be more intricately shaped.



PHILIPPINE wood products get to adorn restaurants and resorts in Hawaii.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Monday, September 18, 2006

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Cola Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol	Wow Maling Mali Bilis		Totoo TV		Big News	TNA	Philippine Idol (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Noypi Kaw Ba 'To?	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Panic Room					E Buzz	Alias (Season IV)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		30 Seconds To Fame	The Amazing Race (Season X)			House (Season II)		Nip/ Tuck	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel	Robotboy	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon/ Pokemon Johto Journey	Dico	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Di Kita Malimot		Ina, Kasusuklaman Ba Kita?				Patayin Sa Sindak Si Barbara				Kailan Tama Ang Mali				Dekada 70			
Cinemax		The Italian Job (2:30 PM)				Rules Of Obsession			Subzero			Life Without Dick			Past Midnight (9:35 PM)			House Of Secrets (11:15PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Living Golf/[illegible]		Your World Today	
Crime/Suspense		What Should You Do?		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Masterminds	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Prison Break/ Law Firm		Prison Break		Treasure Hunters	
Discovery Channel				Monster Garage		Ultimate Discovery		Deadliest Catch		Wild Discovery		Life Unlimited		Ultimate Discovery		Tribe: Adi		Deadliest Catch	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible]	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Extreme Programming Series Max 2006/07		Winter X-Games X - Day 4			UEFA Champions League Magazine Show	Major League Baseball Friday		Party Poker.com World Open 2005				Sportscenter Asia	LPGA Golf Wendy's C'ship For Children Finals				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Friends 10	Beauty And The Geek 2		Change of Heart	Eliminidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		America's Next Top Model 5		ET Weekend	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle Of Common Sense	Threshold Of Hope		Sunday Night Prime (Repeat) Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Good Or Evil: Who Decides?	The Catholic Church Through The Ages	Freedom & Authority	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	[illegible]	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	[illegible] (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Judging Amy		Due East			
HBO				Bobby Jones Stroke Of Genius				The Postman (6:05 PM)						The Saint				Entourage 15: The Sundance Kids	Entourage 16: Oh Mandy
Hero TV	Rune Soldier	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BB Daman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Ganbaruger	Rune Soldier	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Japan Video Topics/ Aims		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Aims	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Bottomline		Afterburn		Cinema Tech	Evolver	Beat The Geeks	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Jack Yard	Jack's Booth				The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Gel Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Embellish This	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	E! Extra: Jackie Collins Presents: Hell & The Beautiful		NY Fashion Week	Martha		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article	Good Finds	Style Star
MTV Philippines		Wildboyz	8th & Ocean	MTV Hits	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	VMA 06: All Eyes On Beyonce	TRL		Wildboyz	8th & Ocean	Christina Aguilera Back To Basics	Handpicked Kyla	Breaking The Band: MYX Top 25 Moments	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	MYX Fresh	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mobile MYX Top Picks		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Naked Science		The Living Edens		Top 5 - Beauty?		WOW! Godfire: From the Heart of Darkness		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Naked Science The Deep		The Living Edens: Palau, Hidden Rainforest	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alsp.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Ely Lindo & Angelique Lazo News Beat (Live)		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition		Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Bisig Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan				OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Pananampalataya	Ang Mga Nagsi-Bisig Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Madaling Mama-Bu, Mahirap Mabuhay				Ang Nanay Ni Brando				Mahal Kita Final Answer				Paano Tatakasan Ang Bukas				Doppelganger
Qtv	Love Revolution	Shaman King	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		H3O: Ha Ha Ha Over		News On Q	Sapulso		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News			Jake In Progress	Scare Tactics	GBB	Movie Monday				Newswatch Now	Go Negosyo		Kapihan
SBN 21								Complete Savages				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				Boxing: M. Barrera vs R. Juarez/ Pablo Boom Boom				Sony Music Video		Sagupaan		Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's-Canada		Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's-France		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's-Poland	
Sports Plus						Ultimate Fighting Champ Special Vendetta				Party Poker.com World Open 2005				World Game		Al Lumber Classic Finals			
Star Movies			Dangerous Waters Shark Attack			Armageddon					Good Boy!			Never Been Kissed			The Woodsman (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids	Everybody Loves Raymond	Yes Dear	Miss World 2006	For Better Or Worse		Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh				Batman Beyond	Dragon Booster	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup						News Central	America's Next Top Model		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Wanted: More trained medical transcriptionists

By Riza T. Olchondra

THERE IS DEMAND FOR 150,000 new medical transcriptionists (MTs) every year, but training schools cannot produce enough quality graduates to serve the need.

The problem lies, at least in part, in the training, said Jose Mari Cuervo, director of an MT school called MediTrans Academy (MTA).

Medical transcription involves transcribing voice recordings by physicians and healthcare professionals about medical reports and checkups, correspondence with patients, assessments, medical procedures and diagnosis.

MEDICAL transcriptionists earn at least P10,000 a month

The data is stored in a database and sent electronically back to the medical professional who made the recording.

Apart from skills in speed typing, MTs may have to edit materials depending on the clarity of the dictation, as well as the dictating professional's grammar.

These skills can be learned or enhanced in medical transcription schools, said Cuervo.

After graduating or completing training, new MTs can earn at least P10,000 a month with additional incentives depending on how many lines they can transcribe in a day.

Those with their own US-based clients can earn in dollars—about $13.05 an hour—while working at home.

As an MT's skills level goes up, so does the pay.

"There is no problem in finding clients at all—the problem is that there are not enough MTs to serve the demand," Cuervo said.

"The backlog of data is just so large. But without the right skills, our MTs cannot get a lot of repeat business."

There are nearly 20 companies in the Philippines that offer MT services to the $10-billion MT market in the United States, and several schools have sprung up to help train future transcriptionists.

"(However) unlike other MT schools, we (MTA) do not distinguish our curriculum on whether a student or trainee has an allied medical background or not," Cuervo said.

"Our curriculum focuses on a skills-set unique to a medical transcriptionist, as opposed to diagnostic skills learned by doctors. Therefore, all must go through the six-month course," he added.

Cuervo said training based on the model curriculum of the American Association of Medical Transcription is one way of ensuring that its graduates can satisfy clients from the US, the main driver of the worldwide MT industry.

To maintain the quality of instruction, each class at MTA is limited to a maximum of 15 students.

Classes are held Monday to Friday. A student can choose from morning, afternoon, to evening sessions. Each course lasts for six months, with the last month devoted to on-the-job training.

To date, the school has branches in Alabang, Libis, Pasig City and soon in Makati City.

MTA is also in association with Calamba Doctors Hospital in Laguna and the Calayan Foundation in Lucena City.

"(MTA) believes in controlled growth," Cuervo said. "After all, we are not a diploma mill. And since the future of the MT industry rests on quality at the training level, the schools cannot compromise, really."

For inquiries:

U-B2, Lower Ground Floor, Westgate Tower Condo, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines 772-1853 / 772-1854

MOVEMENTS

Discovery Shores Boracay GM named

WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS LUXURIOUS Discovery Shores resort-spa in Boracay Island underway, Annabelle Wisniewski, president of HSAI-Raintree Management Co., has announced the appointment of Jose C. Parreño as general manager.

In his new role, Parreño will oversee all operations—including resort development—for Discovery Shores Boracay.

Slated to open in December 2006, Discovery Shores Boracay will feature 88 beautifully appointed suites, a restaurant, function rooms and a spa.

According to Wisniewski, Parreño will also spearhead special projects for HSAI-Raintree, which currently manages the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center and Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay.

"Parreño's role in our company is key, as he is overseeing the first resort-spa in our growing collection of high-end properties in Manila," Wisniewski relates. "With more than 15 years of experience, he is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about all aspects of hotel operations. We know he is the ideal person to direct and grow our first resort venture."

Parreño, born and raised in the City of Smiles, Bacolod City, has since had an industry career that has encompassed hotel marketing, operations, staff development and guest services.

Prior to his Discovery experience, Parreño was with Mandarin Oriental for seven years and Pan Pacific Manila for two years. He joined Discovery Suites in 1999, taking the director of operations position handling front office, housekeeping, security and food & beverage departments.

Isla Lipana & Co./PwC admits new partners

ISLA LIPANA & Co./PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Philippines announced the admission of four partners and a principal to the Philippine firm.

Cosette V. Canilao of advisory practice has over 10 years of experience as a banker and financial advisor, doing business recovery services and assisting creditors and shareholders through due diligence, financial management advisory, business review, assessment of rehabilitation plan, and execution of restructuring programs. Cosette earned her Bachelor in Science in Business Administration degree from the University of the Philippines Visayas and her Master of Science in Finance from UP Diliman.

Imelda Ronnie S. de Guzman-Castro of assurance practice has extensive experience in auditing a wide variety of business lines including those in the energy, trading, hotel, mining, real estate, pharmaceutical, shipping and manufacturing industries.

Gina S. Detera of assurance practice has over 14 years of auditing experience in the consumer products and services industries. She has worked on assignments on the requirements of Sarbanes-Oxley Act-Audit of Internal Control over Financial Reporting and has facilitated seminars related to the new International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Mary Jade T. Roxas-Divinagracia of advisory practice has over 10 years' experience in financial audit and advisory work. She handles valuations, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions advisory, project finance and privatization engagements. She will take charge of monitoring projects involving multilateral and bilateral funding agencies as well as those in the infrastructure, government and utilities sectors.

Jade holds a Master in Business Administration degree from the University of Hawaii and Japan-America Institute of Management Science and graduated summa cum laude from the University of St. La Salle-Bacolod with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce major in Accounting.

Maria Lourdes A. Pagsanjan-Lim of tax practice has 10 years' experience in providing tax consultancy services for clients in different industries including oil and gas, energy, consumer and industrial products and services, and financial services.

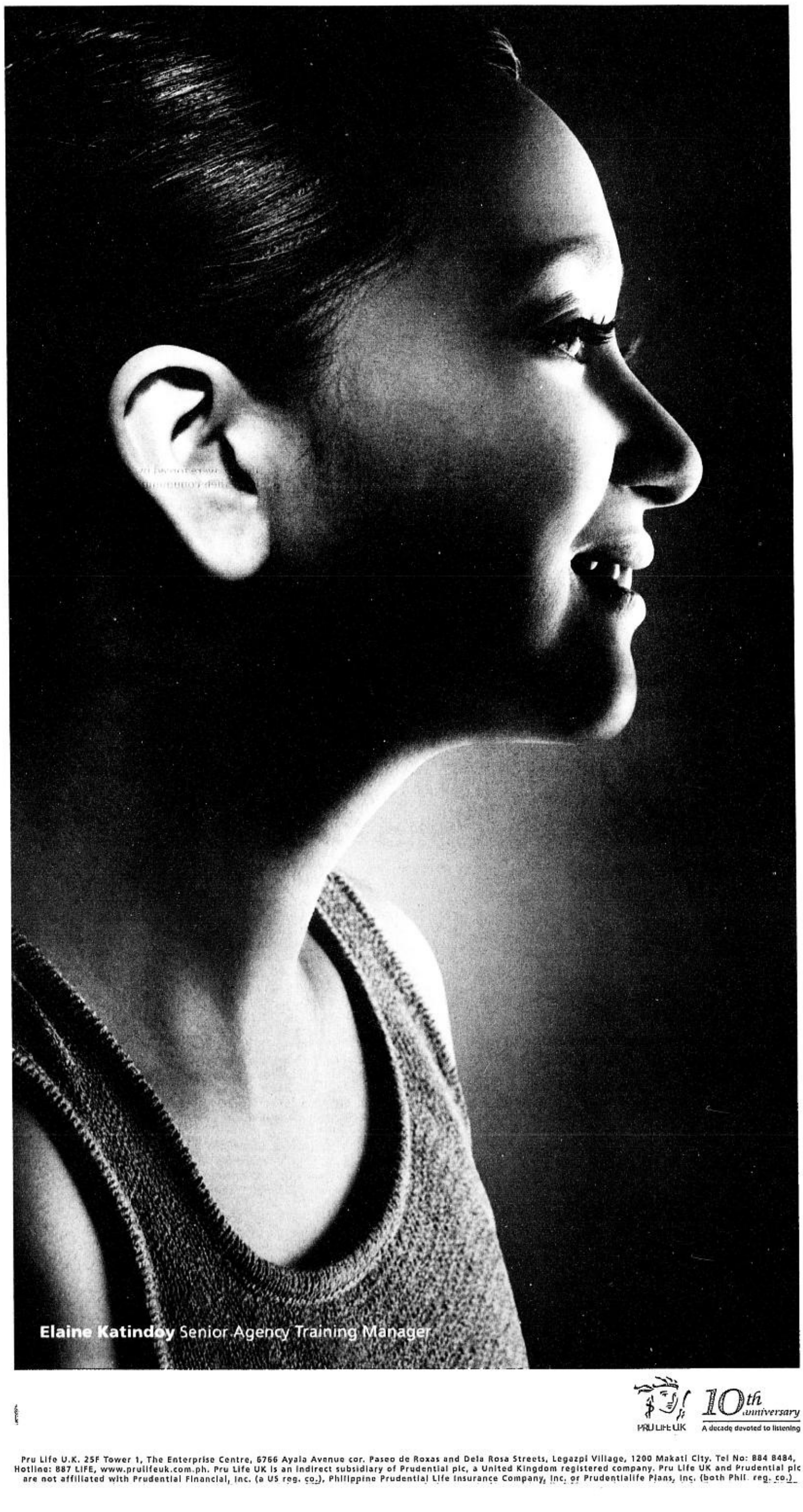
PSBank VP is new Baiphil head

THE BANKERS Institute of the Philippines (Baiphil) has elected Grace de la Cruz as the organization's 61st president.

She is currently Philippine Savings Bank's (PSBank) vice president and acting chief compliance officer.

As new president of Baiphil, De la Cruz vowed to continue the programs started in pursuit of the organization's mission to be the education, research and information arm of the banking industry.

The Baiphil theme this year is "Moving toward global banking compliance."



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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

BDO Capital best in the industry

BDO CAPITAL & INVESTMENT Corp (BDO Capital) was awarded by Finance Asia magazine as the best investment bank and best equities house in the Philippines in its recent 2006 Country Awards for Achievement in Hong Kong.

BDO Capital, a wholly owned subsidiary of Banco De Oro Universal Bank, has led and participated in major capital markets' fund-raising transactions for both the government and private corporations. Total combined debt and equity issues for 2005 was at P132.5 billion. BDO Capital is the 5th largest investment bank in the country with total assets of P1.2 billion as of the first semester of 2006.

Finance Asia awarded the best equities house to BDO Capital for its significant role in recent IPOs, secondary offerings and convertible bond issues, as well as for its contribution to the development of the local capital markets. The best investment bank award, on the other hand, was based on the firm's advisory and M&A work, including its activities as an equity house.

The year 2006 is another busy year for BDO Capital. For the first half of the year, BDO Capital was joint domestic issue manager for the First Gen IPO and the sole domestic issue manager for Megaworld's additional offering of common shares. For the debt market, it was the arranger for Tanduay Distiller's term loan and NutriAsia Inc's term facility to purchase 50-percent ownership in Heinz UFC Philippines. It was also a joint underwriter for the Bridge Facility for the purchase of Del Monte Pacific Ltd million by NutriaAsia Pacific Ltd, a joint venture between condiments manufacturer Joselito Campos Jr and San Miguel Corp. On the advisory side, BDO Capital acted as financial advisor to SM Investments Corp for its global depositary receipts and the merger of Carrier Refrigeration Philippines Inc and Linde Refrigeration Philippines Inc.

This is the second major recognition that BDO Capital received in three months. It was recently cited by Asiamoney as the best equity house and best debt house while Banco De Oro Universal Bank (BDO) was adjudged as the best domestic bank for 2005. This was a first-ever sweep of the Asiamoney country awards by a single banking group.

SHOWN is Eduardo V. Francisco, executive vice president of BDO Capital & Investment Corp, receiving the best equity house and best investment bank awards from FinanceAsia's Steven Irvine (left) and Jonathan Hirst (right) in Hong Kong.

QUEZON PROVINCE, RAS AL KHAIMAH SIGN DECLARATION OF INTENT

Quezon Province Governor Wilfrido L. Enverga (3rd from left) with His Highness Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah City in UAE (4th from left), after the signing of a Declaration of Intent that would establish a possible twinning relationship, open other investment opportunities on the legacy projects of the province. Together with them are (from left): Dr. Khater Massaad, Chief Executive Officer and Adviser to the Prince; Rufino P. Ybanez, chief of staff RAK Philippines operations; Evelyn S. Abeja, Quezon Provincial Administrator; Grace Enverga, Quezon Province First Lady; Michael Sherwin Macatangay, executive managing director and head, RAK Philippines operations; Frederic Piras, RAK Ceramics Worldwide general manager; and Ma. Loreza R. Merluza, senior executive consultant, RAK Philippines operations.

World-class construction, lifestyle show set

SINCE ITS INITIAL LAUNCH 15 YEARS AGO, through the efforts of the Philippine Constructors Association, Philconstruct has established itself as one of the most dynamic building and construction events in the Asia Pacific region. Today, it has become the longest running and the largest construction equipment, building materials and interior products exhibition and conference. Over the years, it has also served as a launching pad for new products and services to more than 2,000 suppliers from all over the world.

At this stage, over 85 percent of the massive indoor and outdoor space of the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM) has been booked by over 300 companies coming from 18 countries worldwide. The show, which will run from Nov. 8 to 11, is expected to occupy over 18,000 sqm indoor/outdoor, or over 550 booths led by its major sponsors Boysen, Cemex, Davies, Holcim, Lafarge, Maxima and Monark.

"With the country headed towards a very positive direction, Philconstruct is expected to have another record-breaking year. We are expecting group participation from Australia, China, Singapore, Taiwan, United States and the United Kingdom. The PCA is truly proud to be able to contribute so significantly to growth and development of the local construction industry and to the improvement of the living standard in the country. This is a role we intent to lead in the years to come," said John Bautista, PCA 1st vice president and exhibit chair.

This four-day exhibit will feature the latest technological breakthroughs in structural and architectural components, landscaping products, interior finishing, appliances and fixtures for industrial, commercial and residential projects. Philconstruct '06 will once again feature the very successful Modern Home Expo '06, a comprehensive showcase of the latest and most advanced technology and products that can be used for homes, offices and buildings. There will also be a special section on Intelligent Building. Interested exhibitors and sponsors for Philconstruct '06 may call event manager Global-Link Marketing & Management Services Inc at 750-8588, 887-1304, fax 750-8585 or 887-1305, or e-mail jing.lagandaon@globallinkph.com.

"Some of the highlights at Philconstruct this year will include a mock-up of the Estilo de Vida Inter-School interior design competition finalists, business-to-business meeting with top contractors, architects and designers, technical seminars and product presentations, the launching of the new technology pavilion and many more surprises that will surely make the show impressive and unforgettable," added Jorge Consunji, president of PCA.

PCA 2006 DIRECTORS TAKE OATH WITH VP DE CASTRO

Shown from left are George Hong, Wilfredo Dela Rosa, VP for operations of Betonval Ready Concrete, Edilberto Palisoc, general manager of DMCI, engineer Jorge Consunji, PCA president, Noel D. Policarpio of RD Policarpio and Co Inc, Jun Castillo, VP of Aegis Integrated Structure Corp, Raul Ang, president of Maxima Equipment, Lamberto Sison, president and CEO of SPP Corp, John A. Bautista, PCA 1st vice president, Emilio Tombocon, PCA immediate past president and Ching Evangelista of New Kanlaon Construction Inc.

High purity, low cost water system

BUILDINGS, schools, hospitals, resorts, subdivisions and factories need not buy expensive bottled water that needs to be delivered. The UHP-500 self-contained transportable water refilling station can be used for business or for private consumption. Using state-of-the-art heavy 'duty Ozone generators, ozone (O3) kills germs and bacteria 300 times faster than poisonous chlorine. This compact 4 feet x 3 feet x 6 feet, 2-hp equipment is completely assembled with tanks, pumps, filters, carbon, ultraviolet and the Ozonator that costs only 30 centavos per gallon processing even deep well water.

Producing five gallons a minute, or 3,000 gallons in a 10-hour period, the UHP-500 is perfect for business, and at a cost of P150,000 pays for itself in just three months.

Manufacturer Electromex Inc also builds heavy-duty Water Ozonators for treatment of overhead tanks and swimming pools, doing away with muriatic acid and chlorine. It's safe for you and your family. Call 531-6782 or 535-9069, or log on to www.electromexinc.com.

'Mabuhay Tinapay' goes to Cebu

"MABUHAY TINAPAY", THE SIGNATURE campaign of concerned Philippine flour millers and the US Wheat Associates aimed at getting Filipinos to eat more bread, is going to be launched in Cebu this month. It is intended to create awareness of the health and economic benefits of eating bread.

Launched earlier in Metro Manila, the Philippine wheat flour milling industry is at the forefront of the "Mabuhay Tinapay" campaign to drum up interest in bread products and other wheat-based food in the country.

There are two flour millers associations in the country. One is the Philippine Association of Flour Millers (Pafmil) established in 1962, some four years after the first flour mill in the country—Republic Flour Mills, now known as RFM Corp—was put up.

Aside from RFM Corp, the other members of Pafmil are Wellington Flour Mills, Liberty Flour Mills, Universal Robina Corp, General Milling Corp, Philippine Flour Mills and Pilmico Foods Corp.

The other organization, the Chamber of Philippine Flour Millers (Champflour), was organized in the early 1990s. Its members are San Miguel Mills, Philippine Foremost Milling Corp, Morning Star Milling Corp and Delta Flour Mills.

Setting aside their stiff competition, local wheat flour millers have combined resources with the US Wheat Associates, the marketing arm of American wheat farmers, in an effort to increase Filipinos' appetite for *pan de sal*, *monay*, loaf bread and other wheat flour-based delicacies.

The "Mabuhay Tinapay" campaign is a combined effort aimed at promoting the consumption of all kinds of bread among Filipinos for its health benefits and to encourage bakers and bakery owners to patronize locally milled flour.

CKSCAA CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL BOWLING, BILLIARD TOURNEYS

The Chiang Kai Shek College Alumni Association (CKSCAA) recently held its biennial bowling and billiard tournament at Paeng's Midtown bowl and billiard room, Robinsons Place, Manila from Sept. 10 to 13. A total of 30 teams from different batches participated in the bowling event, while 56 individuals vied for the crown in the cue. Shown is Robert Que, president of CKSCAA (3rd from left), with (from right) sport committee chair Vencent Ong, vice presidents Albert Tan Lee and Wilson Go, honorary president George Tiu Chun Lin, and vice presidents Ruben Co and Philip Chan. CKSCAA has also announced that on Sept. 29, the Teacher's Day celebrations and August Moon Festival will be held at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the alma mater's auditorium.

Baguio hosts Swim program

WITH A SOLID BACKING FROM the city government, Baguio has unveiled a breakthrough water program which will propose reforms for the improvement of water services and protection of water resources to its vastly growing population.

The Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Governance (Swim) program focuses on water vision, a local water code, a medium-term water development and investment plan, and a local governance mechanism that will benefit more than 250,000 residents and tourists in Baguio City.

Initiated by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (Iclei), a non-profit organization that works with local governments to help improve plans, policies, decisions and actions for sustainable development, Baguio's Swim program is also financed and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through its Pilot Demonstration Authority (PDA).

As a show of support, Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon recently signed Executive Order No.04, Series of 2005, which calls for adopting the implementation framework for the Swim program.

The order, Yaranon said, empowers heads of offices to propose water reforms for the improvement of water services and protection of water resources within the city.

The Swim program is a radical local water governance reform. The vital component of this reform is the "shift from sectoral to integrated water governance. It transforms the individual efforts of the sectors concerned into collective actions," said Pamela Gallares Oppus, Iclei executive director, in a statement.

Aside from giving his full backing with the Swim program, Yaranon also included in EO-04 the coordination with national agencies, notably the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to ensure national-local synergy in enforcing water legislations.

CCA ANGELES' GRAND OPENING

Considered the country's pioneering business process outsourcing group, Call Center Academy (CCA) headed by Jay Yulo held the grand opening Sept. 9 of its 1st franchise awardee CCA Angeles Center headed by Charlie Pena (left). Also shown are Angeles City Councilor Vicky Vega (right) and Lee Poh Eng (center). CCA's Mathew Gray delivered a lecture on American culture and geography highlighted by a career talk among 50 volunteers who simulated actual call center work. Its franchisee program may be availed of by calling (045) 888-1221 or visiting its offices at Suite 201, GloAns Building, 293 Santo Rosario Street (in front of Holy Angels University), Angeles City.

Three decades of 'making life within reach'

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE, EFFECTIVE AND good quality medicine for all Filipinos is the most compelling reason for the continued existence of Terramedic Inc.

This 100 percent Filipino-owned company opened business in October 1975 by trading medicine. Mucotuss, a cough syrup, was the first product that Terramedic marketed 31 years ago. Sales targets on the first year of operation were surpassed and opened opportunities for the venture to progress.

With the strategic efforts of its highly motivated and dedicated 130-man sales team, partnership with Drugmaker's Laboratories, Inc., one of the biggest toll manufacturer of pharmaceuticals in the country and Metro Drug, Inc., its distributor, the company has grown to become a respected and dominant figure in the Philippine pharmaceutical industry.

Proof of this is that years ago, Terramedic triggered competition with multinationals. Geraldine Ann Carag Balao, or Guianne, the company's charming, energetic and feisty managing director, recounts, "In 1990, we marketed the first combination pack of Rifampicin and Isoniazid. This is an anti-tuberculosis (TB) drug for children that urged large-scale pharma companies to study our packaging and marketing strategies."

"That same year, we also came up with Asfrenon-GP, our anti-asthma product that shook the sales of the leading brand," adds Guianne.

Guianne, who is one of the major forces behind all the current Terramedic accomplishments, specifically the management of the company's finances, is the youngest in the family. While she could have immediately placed herself in managerial posts in other companies, she had chosen to work for the family-owned business. But like any other employee in the company, Guianne rose from the ranks and learned even the oddest jobs since she was in her grade school years.

"I always tagged along with my parents to our small office then in Mandaluyong. I enjoyed washing and labeling medicine bottles. Later on, I helped in doing clerical work in the inventory department," she remembers.

After she got her degree and passed the CPA licensure exam, Guianne still chose to work at Terramedic as the company bookkeeper instead of enjoying the benefits of joining a top accounting firm in the Philippines. In her desire to serve the company's mission, Guianne, came to a crucial point in her life where she chose to give up her US immigrant visa to stay in the country for good and keep the baton that was turned over to her able hands.

"Having my growing up years in the company has a big influence in the type of leader that I am now. I look forward to each day at the office to be with my team of employees who I consider my friends and family," Guianne says proudly. This culture of being a family in the workplace transcends from the managing director to all levels of the workforce.

Terramedic also believes in instilling in their personnel the "power to make your own wealth." Salaries are competitive by industry standards and especially when sales targets are attained, incentives and benefits are remarkable. Guianne explains, "in other large companies, salaries offered are high, but commissions can be quite low. We believe that our approach is more encouraging for our people. For excellent performances, we really become creative with our rewards—cash, trips abroad, loyalty and service tenure programs. We also make sure that our people undergo career enrichment and other relevant training courses."

In any organization, a major part of its goal achievement relies on the motivation of its people. Terramedic has managed its people well and now reaps its bounty. The firm has carved a niche in ethical products, particularly in pediatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology. In the recent years, it has introduced Xipro, an antibiotic that costs only half the price of the leading brand, and analgesic/anti-pyretic and vitamin preparations that are among the lowest-priced in the market.

Terramedic continues working for each Filipino to have a healthy life within his reach because they believe that health is wealth. Good health and wellness can enable anyone to live and work and enjoy life. With this, Guianne assures, "Our company places high value on thorough research and development to accomplish its mission. Expect more quality products from Terramedic in the near future. These include formulation for oncology and cardio disorders, injectables, and nutriceutical products."

GUIANNE Balao

Drive for ...

From page B2-8

On Monday, Nokia and Motorola said they had agreed to work together to allow users to see television broadcasts through their mobile phones.

Handset makers also see digital music as one of the key drivers for selling more expensive new phones as they try to hold up their average selling prices despite surging demand for cheap phones in emerging markets.

Growth pains

Casting another shadow over this year's growth prospects for European games makers is the arrival of the world's largest video games publisher Electronic Arts into the European market, where it has seized a roughly 25 percent share.

"When earlier everybody tried to just keep up with the growth, now the focus has shifted to competition against each other," said one executive at a mobile gaming firm, who declined to be named.

In addition to EA, top players in the industry include privately-held Glu Mobile and Digital Chocolate, France's Gameloft and U.S. firm THQ.

Slower growth is not just an issue for Europe. A year ago, Informa expected the global market to total $11.2 billion in 2010. It has now almost halved that forecast to $6.4 billion.

Kamar Shah, the head of industry marketing at Nokia, the world's top mobile phone handset maker, says cellphone manufacturers need to make access to games easier for consumers in order to boost the market.

"Mobile gaming is still in its embryonic stage," said Shah.

"We need to expand mobile gaming from core gamers to a wider audience." Less than 5 percent of mobile phone users around the world have downloaded a game, industry players say.

"Europe shares a number of problems with other geographies, such as lack of customer education (and) difficulty involved when customers try to buy games," said Informa's Coffman.

Games makers say Europe, with its many operators, is a tougher market than the more unified United States. Cumbersome infrastructure for downloading content and billing has also hindered market spread, although growth has still mostly been strong.

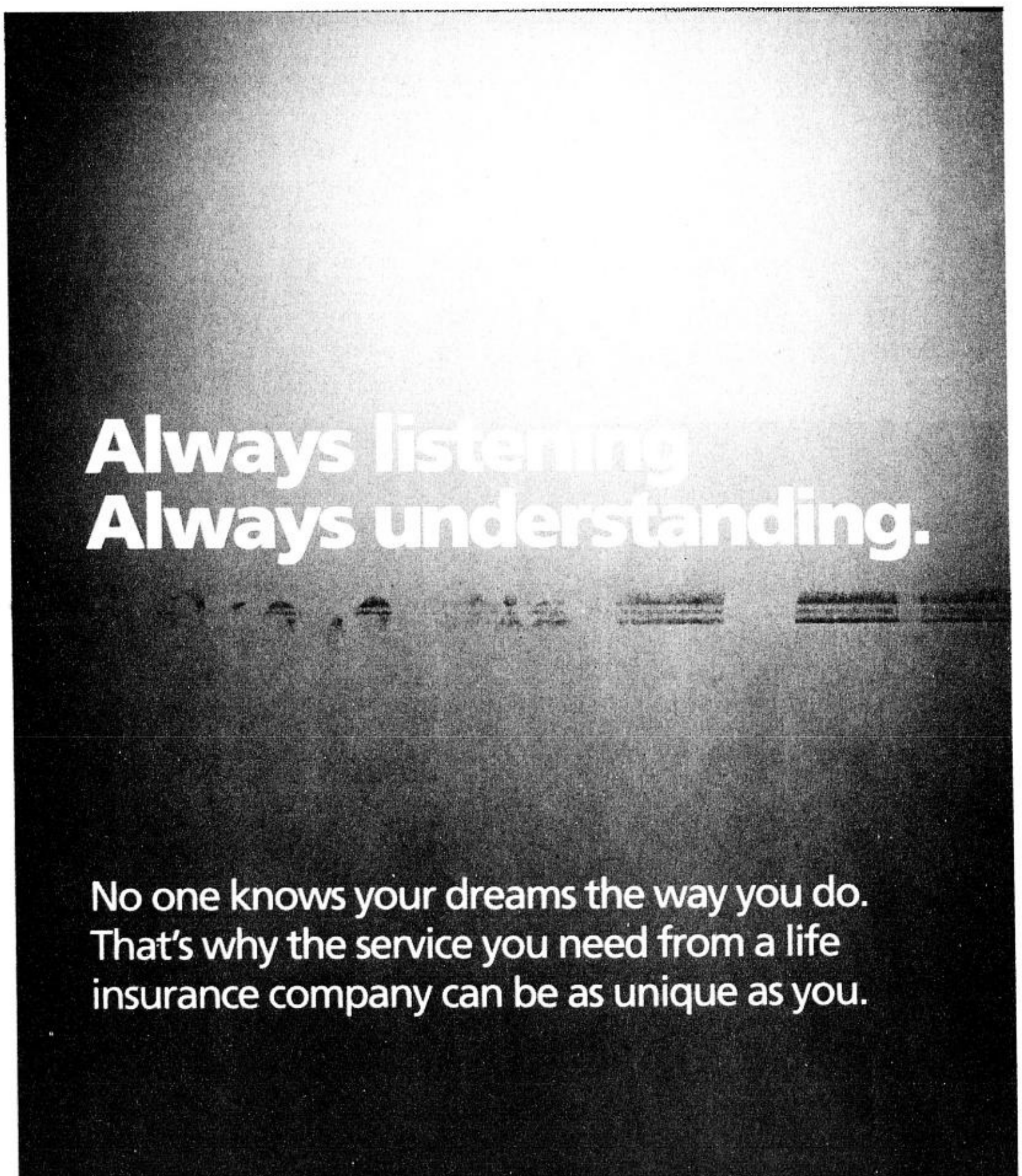
"The only market not growing fast is Germany," said Digital Chocolate's Paananen, noting that operators expected the German market to grow 5-10 percent this year.

A spokesman for Deutsche Telekom's mobile phone unit T-Mobile said it was concentrating on music and mobile TV rather than games as it saw more potential in the former.

He said people were used to playing games in high resolution on their computers or on game consoles and that games for mobile phones were of a poorer quality.

Nonetheless, the company will continue to sell games.

"It has an importance and it is a part of our download section," the spokesman said. ***Reuters***



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BUSINESS Monday

Wish list for directors

Corporate Securities Info
Raul Palabrica

WHEN THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Commission issued the Code of Corporate Governance in 2002, it was aware that enforcing compliance with its provisions is not going to be easy.

Good corporate governance requires a paradigm shift for business executives who are used to having their way with the least interference from the stockholders.

What was previously assumed about the directors' duties and responsibilities are spelled out in the Code.

It states that the mandate of the directors is to "foster the long-term success of the corporation and secure its sustained competitiveness in a manner consistent with its fiduciary responsibility."

Duties and responsibilities

The directors have seven specific duties and responsibilities.

At the top of the list is the obligation to "conduct fair business transactions with the corporation and to ensure that personal interest does not bias board decisions."

A director is elected to protect and promote the interests of the corporation and its shareholders, not his own or his family's. If he finds himself in a conflict of interest situation, he should disclose it immediately and refrain from participating in the decision making process.

The Code also requires directors "to devote time and attention necessary to properly discharge his duties and responsibilities."

What's the point of electing a director, no matter how brilliant he may be, if he cannot attend board meetings and contribute his expertise in the formulation of the company's programs.

Additionally, the Code imposes on the directors the obligation to exercise independent judgment in the deliberations of the board.

Aware of the "don't rock the boat" mentality in our society, the Code admonishes directors to "not be afraid to take a position even though it might be unpopular." He is expected, however, to support plans and ideas that are beneficial to the corporation.

Committees

To meet the objectives of transparency and accountability, the Code requires the creation of an audit committee in covered corporations.

This committee shall consist of at least three directors, preferably with accounting and finance background, one of whom must be an independent director and another should have audit experience.

Considered pivotal to good corporate governance, the committee is tasked with providing "oversight over senior management's activities in managing credit, market, liquidity, operational, legal and other risks of the corporation."

It shall also supervise the activities of the company's internal and external auditors, and this includes the periodic review of its financial statements and internal control processes.

Depending on the particular needs of the corporation, the Code encourages the creation of nomination and compensation committees.

The nomination committee can review and evaluate the qualifications of the people nominated for board membership or to positions whose appointments require board approval.

The compensation committee, on the other hand, can exercise oversight functions over the remuneration of senior management and other key personnel to make sure they conform to the corporation's culture, strategy and environment.

Rounding up the rules on corporate governance are the provisions on the board's duty to respect the rights of the stockholders, in particular, those of the minority stockholders.

Of the six rights mentioned, the following rights may be considered critical: to vote, to information and to dividends.

Stockholders

The right of the stockholders to elect and replace directors is an essential attribute of stock ownership. But there's a caveat in the exercise of this right.

While stockholders can remove directors with or without cause, that power cannot be invoked if it will result in the ouster of directors who were elected as a result of cumulative voting by minority stockholders.

The stockholder's right to information cannot be ignored. Under the Code, for example, upon a stockholder's request, the corporation has to provide him "with periodic reports which disclose personal and professional information about the directors and officers."

On the matter of dividends, the Code reiterates the stockholder's right to enjoy the fruits of his investment.

That right can be withheld only if justified by definite expansion projects, or when a loan agreement by the corporation bars the dividends grant without the creditor's consent and the latter does not give it, or there are special circumstances that require holding back on the dividends.

No doubt, the provisions of the Code are tough. They have to because they cover companies that sell securities that promise hefty financial returns in the future. And only a piece of paper and the name of its issuer back that commitment.

A complete copy of the Code is available in the SEC website, <www.sec.gov.ph>

(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph>)

Drive for mobile-TV, music hits games market

HELSINKI—THE EUROPEAN MOBILE PHONE games market is coping with its first slowdown as telecoms carriers shift advertising spending to mobile television or digital music, and operators struggle to win new devotees.

The $418 million European market is still growing but the pace is slackening with some analysts blaming the slowdown on the difficulties of reaching out to a wider audience.

Operators are also increasing the pressure on games makers by cutting the number of publishers they deal with and asking for greater participation in marketing costs—both moves which are pushing smaller players out of business.

An increasing number of handset models and rising costs are also pushing many games publishers to merge.

Informa researchers forecast a rise of 53 percent in market size in 2006—a healthy increase for many sectors but a slowdown in this early-phase industry which more than doubled annually in 2004 and 2005.

Most industry executives are more cautious than Informa, with the most ambitious putting growth forecasts at 50 percent.

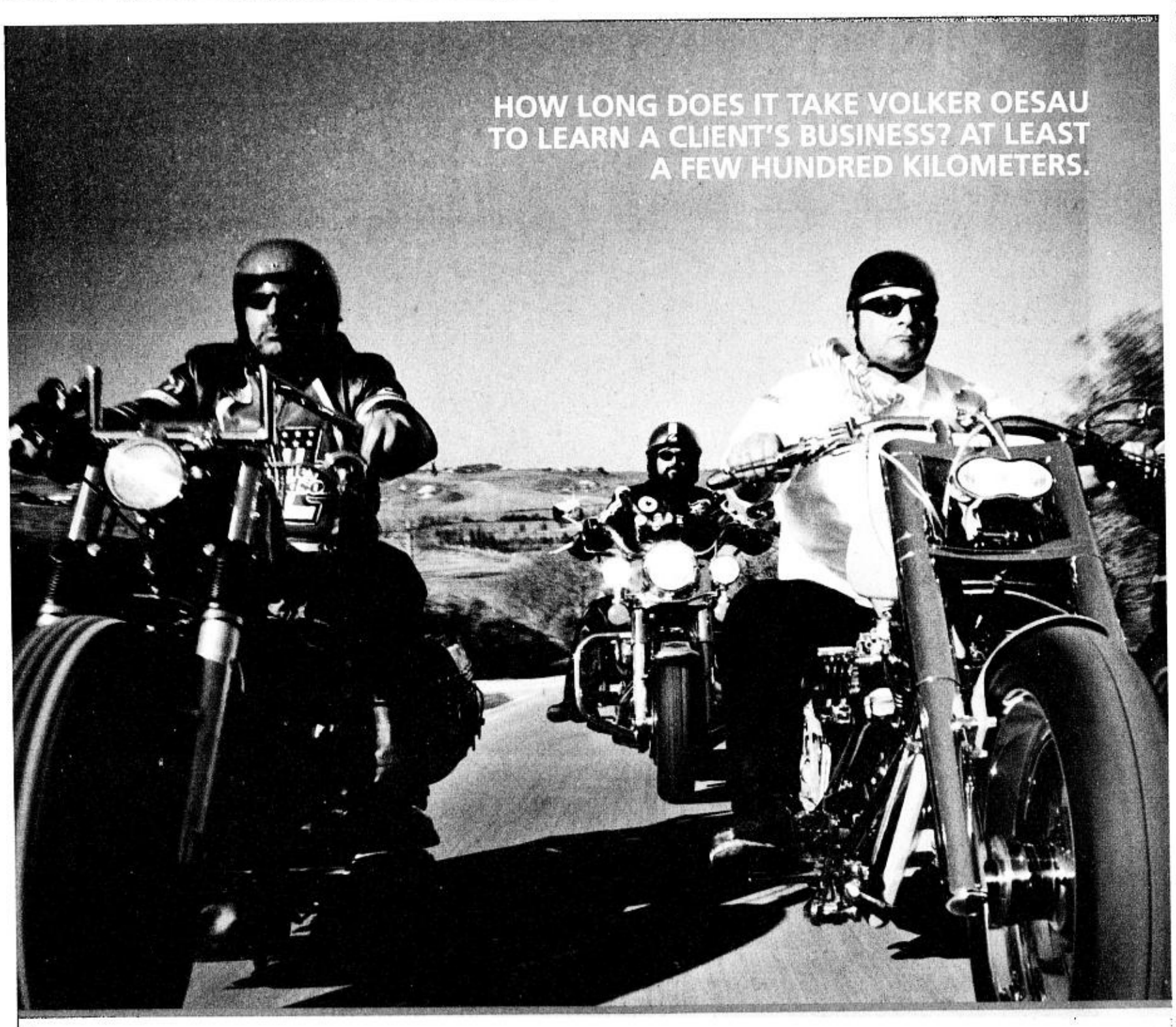
"The European market will grow some 30 - 40 percent—that's the number we hear from operators," said Ilkka Paananen, head of European operations at US firm Digital Chocolate.

"The mobile games market is not a mature market that is in decline. Instead, it's an early-stage market that is having growing pains as it tries to break into the mass market," said Informa analyst Chris Coffman.

Small screens and limited computing power restrict how fancy mobile phone games can be, but customers have proved eager to have them, either already on their new phones or to download.

However, mobile television and digital music—seen as potential big money spinners—could eat into this market share.

DRIVE FOR/ B2-7



E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS Monday

Biggest cold baby rises in Sto. Tomas

Cold chain makes long-distance storage, distribution possible

THE COLD CHAIN INDUSTRY IS one of the most vital industries in the country.

Investments in this area may yet be quantified in terms of economic contribution but reefer vans zip past our busy metropolitan streets and off to far-away piers and airports undetected.

Cold storage facilities rise unconspicuously and go about their business, while we wonder how ever did our fragile vegetables from Benguet make it to the dinner table as fresh as if it were harvested from our backyard?

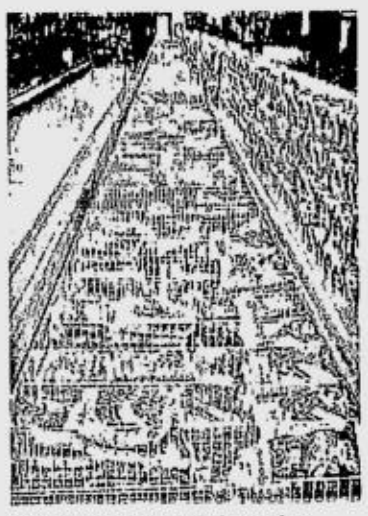
Cold storage facilities

Cold storage facilities are particularly important in the cold chain industry because it makes bulk storage, processing and distribution possible in long distances and storage time.

That is why agribusinesses are on the lookout for bigger, more sophisticated cold storage facilities to host their products and serve their transport needs.

These storage facilities are particularly important for one of the country's rising industrial region-the Calabarzon.

The provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon are but five of Southern Luzon's leading producers of agricultural goods. Strategically located ports in the region make the Mimaropa (Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) a viable extension of interregional economic complementation. These bustling regional economies are getting



EVER WONDERED how the fragile vegetables from Benguet make it to the dinner table fresh?

closer by the day. The demand for heavier, sturdier and more flexible cold storage facilities to effectively service this interregional economies have never been this challenging.

One cold facility is facing up to the challenge—pioneering and veteran cold chain company V&F Ice Plant and Cold Storage.

The plant stands in 3.2 hectares of prime property in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, a few minutes away from both the SLEX via Calamba exit and the Star Tollway. It is by far the biggest cold storage complex south of Manila and rivals the very best in the cold storage industry.

The company is responsible for the establishment of other highly-competitive cold storage and ice plants in Metro Manila, servicing the needs of Navotas, Malabon, Caloocan and adjacent agri-coastal communities.

The Batangas plant, however, is the largest so far in the V & F's fleet of cold complexes. The entire cold complex is maximized to accommodate more than abundant warehousing and cold storage needs of the most demanding clients.

Blast freezers

Consider the 11 freezer rooms-each with 400 pallets and a combined capacity of 5, 280 pallets.

The facility also boasts of two blast freezers with a capacity to quick freeze up to 30 tons of products at an air temperature of -35 degrees C per 4 hour blast freezing cycle. How's that for one enormous ice cube?

Located at the most convenient area of the cold complex are two processing rooms 258 square meters wide-enough for a fairly exhausting basketball game; and can host a variety of processing activities from value-added processing to repackaging and promotional bundling. The facility also provides 10 office stalls enclosed to suitably host business activities and paper work.

V & F also provides five convertible chiller rooms, designed to service the various temperature requirements of fresh produce.

The V & F Cold Complex is also designed for quick, trouble-free loading and unloading while ensuring that products are safe from contaminant elements. A computerized inventory system ensures 100 percent pilferage-a must for companies who value their money.

Top choice

Thirty power supply plug-in facilities allows for reasonable waiting time for haulers and delivery vans and pre-cooling of reefer vans before loading and dispatch.

On top of these amenities is a sprawling parking area, custom-paved for heavy reefer traffic.

The V & F Ice Plant and Cold Storage facility has been the cold storage of choice for meticulous and demanding clients with specific and precise cold storage requirements. Purefoods Hormel, Magnolia Fruits and Taiyo Gold are among the clients of V & F's Batangas facility. And more companies are discovering the vast possibilities of cold storage V & F is offering.

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

World's largest PR network adds new partner in RP

WORLDCOM, THE WORLD'S largest network of independent public relations companies, elected three new Asia Pacific partners at its regional meeting in Singapore recently.

Paradigm Communications (Beijing and Shanghai, China), MegaReach (Manila, Philippines) and Dynamic Public Relations Inc (Taipei, Taiwan) join partners in 10 other Asia Pacific countries and more than 100 partners worldwide.

Paradigm Communication (China), managed by Edwin So, was founded in 1998 and specializes in technology, consumer and corporate communications.

MegaReach (Philippines) is a full service public relations firm formed in 1995 by radio broadcaster Joy Gador and newspaperman Arnel Medrano to provide both government and private sector services.

Dynamic Public Relations (Taiwan) is an independent agency, founded in 2000 by experienced public relations professional Marian Ma, which offers public relations, publicity and marketing events.

The chair of Worldcom Asia Pacific Region, Douglas Wright, said that the addition of partners in China, the Philippines and Taiwan strengthened the group and provided additional reach for clients of Worldcom firms around the world.

"These new firms had to meet stringent entry conditions and will be subject to a rigorous peer review of management standards within their first year of membership," said Wright.

"There's a big difference between a professional public relations network like the Worldcom Group and informal partner relationships common among smaller agencies. The professional processes and systems we have in place allow us to serve clients more effectively than a loose agreement, common among less established networks. Worldcom provides clients with superior service and international expertise, without global agency overheads. Clients also have access to specialist services, such as staff training programs, practice groups and relationship branding-a proprietary client branding process," said Wright.

Worldcom has more than 100 partner offices in 33 countries worldwide, employing 1800 consultants with a combined turnover of $183.2 million. The network was formed in 1988 to enable the strongest, most capable independent firms to serve national, international and multinational clients. Worldcom Asia Pacific Region has partners in Australia, Hong Kong, China, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, India and Vietnam.

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT IN 'BALIKBAYAN' BOX

Together with Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano (right), officials of Abenson, American Eye Center, Avis, Globe Telecom, Jollibee Foods Corp, Kuok Group (Edsa Shangri-La, Makati Shangri-La, Shangri-La Plaza, Traders Hotel, The Shang Grand Tower Corp for the St. Francis Towers), Philippine Airlines and the Philippine National Bank literally 'pitch in' their support for the Department of Tourism's 'The Philippines: Explore. Experience. Return' program inside a balikbayan box during the official pledging ceremony held recently at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. 'The Philippines: Explore. Experience. Return' program is an online raffle promo that is open to all Filipino-Americans, Filipino-Canadians and those of Filipino descent. Interested participants can log on to www.experiencephilippines.ph for a chance to win one of 250 free flight seats from Philippine Airlines, discounted hotel accommodations from the Kuok Group, a balikbayan box full of prizes and a fully furnished condominium unit.

LMC CONTINUES PARTNERSHIP WITH QBF

Lupel Marketing Corp (LMC), the exclusive distributor of Uni Writing Instruments, in its commitment to corporate social responsibility, continues its partnership with the Quiz Bee Foundation (QBF) in bringing together the best and brightest school students to the forefront through the 27th National Quiz Bee. Shown are longtime friends and partners (from left) Mario Daquis, LMC advertising manager, Auvena Lacsam, QBF associate project director, Monica Pellicer-Pacifici, LMC director, Pettizou P. Tayag, Quiz Bee vice president, Michelle F. Pellicer, LMC vice president, and Edlyn B. Que, LMC advertising assistant. The Quiz Bee contest is the longest running and most respected academic competition in the country and is open to elementary, secondary and collegiate levels currently enrolled at any public or private schools, universities and colleges. For inquiries, e-mail the Quiz Bee secretariat at quizbee_1977@yahoo.com.

Review for realty broker's licensure exam set

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY has set the real estate broker's licensure examination in Nov. 26 and the Urban Institute of Real Estate has announced the schedule of its Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review as follows:

Monday evening sessions will start Sept. 25 and on October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Nov. 6 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Makati.; Tuesday afternoon sessions will start Sept. 26 and continues on Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and Nov. 7 from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Makati. The Saturday afternoon sessions will be at the same time and venue and will be held on Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4 and 18, while the Thursday afternoon sessions will be held at Max's Restaurant at Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City on Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 9, same time slot.

Experts and authorities in their respective fields led by land laws specialist lawyer Dennis Tablizo and engineer Enrico Cruz, 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraisers and brokers board examination, respectively, are lined up to lecture on the subjects officially prescribed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Urban also announced that updated copies of "Comprehensive Notes and Reviewer For Real Estate Broker's Examination" prepared by engineer Enrico S. Cruz and lawyer Rex Enrico V. Cruz III are now available for distribution to aspiring examinees who will be taking the real estate brokers board examination.

Designed to support prospective examinees, the over 280-page reviewer contains all the board exam topics with more than 200 past board questions and answers sorted according to board subject required by the DTI. The authors also presents answers and solutions to the past board examinations and mathematical solutions to Real Estate Taxation and Problem Solving, which is 30 percent of the board examination. In addition, 10 sample documents were prepared in layman's term for easy understanding. This reviewer will also be a handy reference for real estate developers, practitioners and property owners.

For other details or advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or 0916-4269174 or by e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

BIB & LAP-BAND CENTER LAUNCHED

Launched in April, the BIB & Lap-Band Center is a walk-in information hub on the latest trends in weight loss and severe obesity treatment. Located at the Medical Plaza in Makati City, the center provides a comprehensive databank which includes product literature, clinical dossier, video and audio materials and web access, all dealing with obesity solutions. Morbid obesity, which is having a body-mass index of 35 or greater for Asia-Pacific standards, poses a great health risk for people under this condition-from physical disability to serious chronic cases such as heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. The Lap-Band and BIB System that significantly reduces food intake are accepted worldwide to treat obesity. The BIB and the Lap-Band Systems are manufactured by Inamed Corp, a division of Allergan Inc of the United States and are US FDA approved. To know more about the BIB & Lap-Band Center/Total Obesity Solutions, call 886-4673 or text 0917-LAPBAND (5272263), or log on to www.bibasia.info and www.lapbandasia.com. Shown at the launching, from left, are Dr. Felicisimo Agas Jr (gastroenterologist, Cardinal Santos and St. Luke's Medical Center), Dr. Ferdinand Samonte (bariatric surgeon, De Los Santos Medical Center), Dr. Miguel Mendoza (bariatric surgeon, Asian Hospital), Dr. Jose Afonso Sallet (Inamed surgeon from Brazil), David Stickland (Allergan-Inamed Health, Asian distribution manager), Ilse-Chan Michiels (Aemed Inc managing director), and Bom Chan (BIB & Lap-Band Center head of Obesity Solutions).

White Rock Triathlon partners with Solar Sports, New Balance

THE WHITE ROCK triathlon—the country's premier long distance triathlon race, sealed an agreement with Solar Sports and New Balance July 24 at the Solar Sports office in Bel-Air, Makati and the New Balance office in Rockwell.

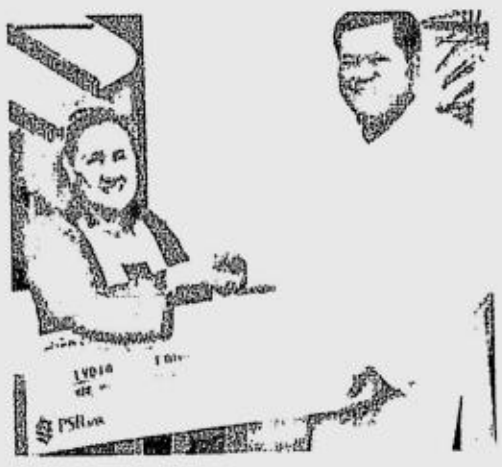
As the official television station for this year's long-distance race, Solar Sports will cover and promote this sought-after race through its programs "The Rookie Manual" and "Sports Desk". Highlighting the toughness and mega-endurance the athletes will go through, this coverage shall bring the race closer to all viewers and shall give the much needed exposure for this most grueling race.

Meanwhile, New Balance is once again the official outfitter of the White Rock Triathlon 2006 as it extends its unfailing support retaining its status as a major sponsor and partner of the race since its first run in 2004.

The third season of this year's White Rock Triathlon is going to take place on Oct. 7 and shall be hosted by the White Rock Beach Resort at Subic, Zambales. White Rock Triathlon 2006 is the Philippine's ultimate triathlon endurance race and will cover 2-km of ocean swim at White Rock Beach resort, a 90-km cycling ride through Zambales and a 21-km run to Olongapo and SBMA.

White Rock Beach Resort, the Province of Zambales through Gov. Vic Magsaysay, the City of Olongapo through Mayor James Gordon, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority-Tourism Department, and Fury Eyewear have given their support for the event.

For registration and information about the White Rock Triathlon 2006, log on to www.extribe.com.ph or call 438-9021.



PSBANK AUTO LOAN WINNER

Lydia Leano (left) receives a check for P1,000,000 from PSBank president Pascual M. Garcia III (right) as grand winner in the joint PSBank and Metrobank 'Fast Car, Fast Cash Auto Loan' promo. Aside from being thankful for her prize, Leano was equally grateful for the fast processing of her auto loan, which she needs for her transport business. PSBank gives credit decision in as fast as three hours, faster than most banks' processing time. PSBank also has an automated system where auto loan applicants are notified of the bank's decision through SMS.

GSK JOINS POGS' MIDYEAR CONVENTION

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, joined the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) 60th Foundation and Midyear Convention recently held at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. Shown is POGS president Dr. Susan Pelea-Nagtalon administering flu vaccine shots to Dr. Lety Chua. Assisting them (back, from left) are GSK's Loann Villanueva, Veron Medina, and Rommel Abuda. GSK provided free flu vaccine shots to the participants of the convention.

Soy alleviates menopausal symptoms

SOY HAS BECOME POPULAR OVER THE years because of its health benefits. These health benefits are derived mostly from the quality of soy proteins and form the isoflavones (a type of phytoestrogen).

Phytoestrogen such as daidzein and genistein are plant-derived substances which have been shown to improve estrogen deficiency symptoms in post-menopausal women.

Menopause refers to the cessation of menstrual period. This normally happens when a woman reaches her 40s. At this stage, ovaries stop producing eggs and the level of estrogen declines.

A study published in the Journal of Culture Medicine Psychiatry showed that Asian women had lower incidence of the most common menopausal symptoms-hot flashes and night sweats-compared to Western women because of high phytoestrogen consumption.

Daidzein and genistein mimic estrogen effects in the body which could be useful for conditions aggravated by decline in estrogen levels during menopause.

Phytoestrogen found in soy products such as soya flakes, soy milk, temphe, miso and tofu can also be found in Her Soy Plus but with less purine amount (0.08649+/- 0.00456 mg) per 100-mg capsule. Too much purine consumption elevates the uric acid level.

Her Soy Plus contains no less than 85-percent daidzein and genistein soy isoflavones which help alleviate the menopausal symptoms, promoting health and wellness within a few weeks of recommended use.

Her Soy Plus is imported and distributed by New Smart Formulae Trading Corp. It is available at Mercury Drug and other leading drug stores nationwide. For more information on Her Soy Plus, call 374-6182 or 374-6179.

PRO launched

FELTA MULTI MEDIA INC, IN COOPERATION with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST), recently launched the Philippine Robotics Olympiad (PRO). A scientific, technological and educational event, this feat aims to offer an opportunity to expand students' horizons through learning robotics and robotics systems. This year, about 80 private and public schools across the country are expected to participate. Preliminary judging will be on Sept. 22 at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa City while final judging will be on Oct. 6. Winners of this Olympiad will be sent to Nanling City, China to vie in the World Robotic Olympiad from Nov. 16 to 18.

Solon files bill requiring gov't to use open source software

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE Teodoro Casiño has filed a bill requiring all government agencies to use and develop open source-based applications and solutions.

Dubbed Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) Act of 2006, the bill will "lower overall cost of ICT in the public and private sectors by reducing the country's dependence on proprietary software and computer applications," according to the explanatory note on Casiño's proposed legislation.

This is apart from "making information technology more accessible to a greater number of users; reducing software piracy; unlocking the potential and encouraging the development of a genuinely Filipino IT industry; and providing greater security for highly sensitive government and private information systems," it said.

Reacting to the news, Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) chair Ramon Sales said legislating choice of software in government will likely become moot in a few years.

"I cannot say clearly if this is beneficial or if it's disadvantageous. We need to work on a case-to-case basis for government," Sales said.

He stressed the FOSS industry is now a "strong" industry that does not need to be regulated. This is evidenced by the support it is getting from vendors like IBM, Oracle and NEC.

With a growing industry for open source-based solutions and applications, FOSS as an industry is now facing Microsoft Corp. squarely in a more competitive software environment.

"FOSS is now an established choice," Sales stressed, while acknowledging the strengths of open source.

Casiño said his bill will help develop the local software industry, which is increasingly using open source platforms to develop solutions for enterprises and government.

"This bill mandates government to use FOSS except in some 'extraordinary instances' when proprietary software is the only choice," he said during a briefing at the House of Representatives.

The bill also mandates universities and training institutions to shift to FOSS. A certain provision also makes it unlawful for these institutions to only limit certification and training courses to proprietary software.

Casiño said his effort is an uphill battle considering that proprietary software vendors like Microsoft have, for instance, set up an e-learning center at the House of Representatives. His office and the House of Representatives are or will be using open source software.

Sales, however, said there are several issues that this bill will have to address in forcing government to use open source software and applications. These include dealing with re-training of government employees and "hidden costs" tied to maintenance and deployment of open source systems in government.

Sales said that unless governments starts with a clean slate, legislating choice of software will pose problems for government chief information officers.

The CICT chair said the local software market should be kept free from "regulation" to encourage more competition in a very unpredictable software market.

"Like a forest, they'll require government to only plant mahogany. But in the end, [government] has to work in the great diversity of the marketplace," Sales said.

Meanwhile, Casiño said he expected resistance from government.

In Congress, he said the House committee on information and communications technology is open to discuss his bill. But he acknowledged the challenge of convincing fellow legislators to support the bill.

Under his bill, the CICT will be tasked to audit all government systems, and find out how much is being spent on software. This will help government gauge how much it can save when it goes open source.

Casiño said other countries like Brazil, China, Vietnam and Malaysia have legislated FOSS laws.

Asked what prompted him to push this bill, the lawmaker said he recently had problems with his new laptop computer, which started alerting him that his software was not using genuine version of Microsoft software.

"This made me think, what are the cheaper alternatives to Microsoft? As Bayan Muna, we abhor monopolies," Casiño said.

He said that FOSS is like "Pinakbet," a food specialty of the Ilocanos.

"It sounds crazy [to compare software to Pinakbet] but this is now happening to the software industry. You cannot use software unless you pay a license. Software is now like food," he added. "The time is ripe to push this bill."

Casiño also criticized the current government stance to promote choice of using open source or proprietary software.

"Proprietary software will always win. The only way to go for FOSS is to have a clear choice," he added.

Remote Bohol school. . .

From page B3-4

Garcia said a subset of the school computer lab is also to serve as a community e-center for Cabilao residents. The adults will be taught both basic computer literacy as well as skills they could use to improve their livelihood.

"We realized that this project has to be self-sustaining so that it can survive in the long term. So what we did was to use solar energy because it's readily available while the minimum payment we get from the Internet use of the adults should be enough to pay for the maintenance of the machines," Garcia said.

On a monthly basis, the school laboratory-cum-community e-center earns about P5,500. Four thousand pesos come from the foreign tourists, locals' use and sharing with the beach resort operators while P1,500 come from students.

For their expenses, the facility pays the Internet service provider a monthly flat rate of P3,600 and about P1,000 for physical maintenance of the six computers. The rest is money for the bank.

"The facility's usage depends on the season. We have more tourist users from January to March and the lowest is during the rainy season," Garcia said.

Surveying the results of their endeavor after a year, Garcia proudly said that 90 percent of their high school students and teachers began using the laboratory for research and learning new methods of teaching delivery.

Likewise, the local barangay officials have also started using the facility for business and public transactions.

"We really thank our benefactors for giving us an opportunity to feel how it is to be connected to the Internet. But the residents of Cabilao are the ones that really made this sustainable because they were directly involved in taking care of the facility," Garcia said.

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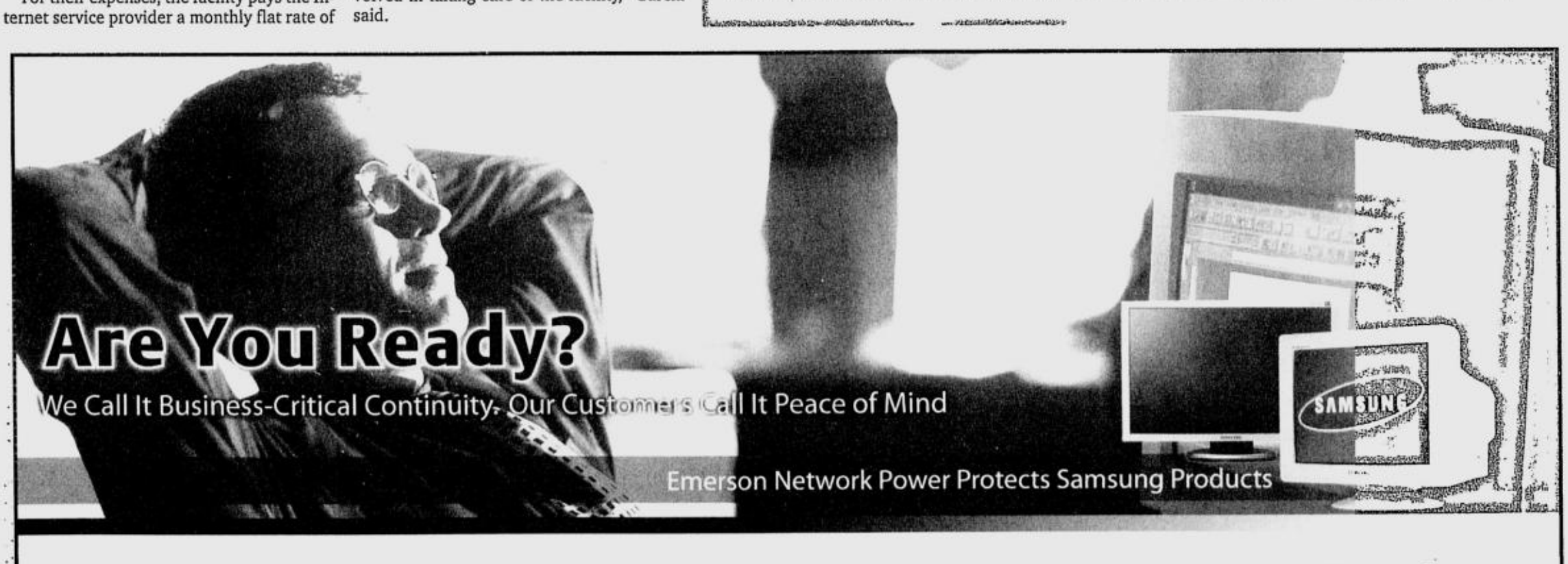

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INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

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Remote Bohol school harnesses sun for Internet access

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

CEBU CITY—NOT MANY FILIPINOS are familiar with the sleepy town of Cabilao in Bohol, but foreign diving enthusiasts know the place for its pristine dive spots. But while divers throng to Cabilao, the town's 3,500 resident still subsist on fishing and farming. Likewise, the town is so remote even basic utilities are almost unavailable. For instance, its gas-powered generator provides electricity for roughly four hours in the evening.

Regardless, this town has one other thing to be proud of other than its beaches and dive sites. The town's only school, the Cabilao National High School, has computers connected wirelessly to the Internet. Where do they get the energy? Renewable power from the sun.

Mario Garcia is the proud principal of CNHS and they were the first recipient of a pilot test by two German institutions, the German Development Service and the Deutsche Gesellschaftfur Technische Zusammenarbeit, to create the country's first wireless independent-powered high school computer laboratory in the Philippines.

The project's goal is to see how a very isolated area in the Philippines could get access to computers and to the Internet. In 2004, the 450 students of CNHS were able to use computers for the very first time and were connected to the Internet via satellite.

REMOTE/ B3-3

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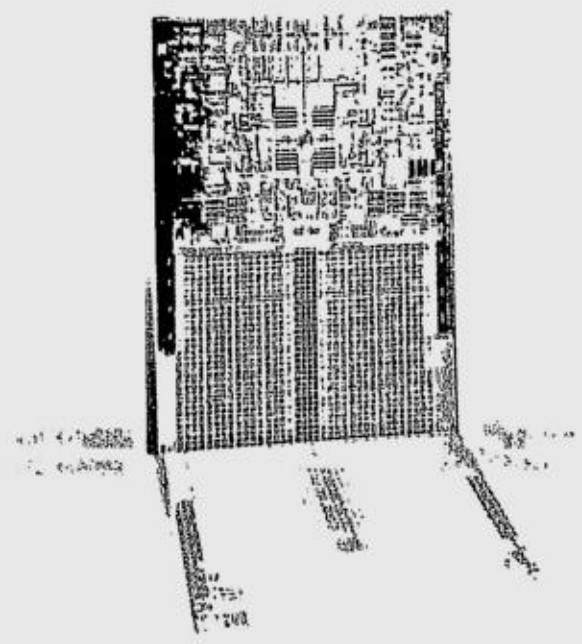

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intel Core™2 Duo inside

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Performance based on SPECint*_rate_base2000 (2 copies) and energy efficiency based on Thermal Design Power (TDP), comparing Intel®Core™2 Duo E6700 to Intel® Pentium® D Processor 960. Actual performance may vary.
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Introducing the Intel® Core™2 Duo:

Multitask with Reckless Abandon

The Digital Revolution

A fundamental change is happening with entertainment - it's going digital. Traditional photography is a relic of the past, with digital cameras today the norm, movies and music can be accessed and downloaded over broadband internet There is no denying that the digital revolution is here and now.

Compared to the productivity and work tools of yesterday, consumers are now demanding more processing power as they run more and more demanding entertainment and communications applications on their PCs. Much of this is down to the demands placed on the processors in the PCs. It is usual for consumers to be simultaneously checking emails, chatting on an instant messenger and looking up the sporting results over the Internet, all while listening to music stored on the computer. At the same time, the computer could be downloading a video to be watched later and running background applications such as Internet security and firewalls. This level of multi-tasking requires powerful top end processor power. The PC has grown from a productivity tool into a media, information and entertainment portal. This has led to a move of the technology from the study into the living room.

The increasing adoption of such applications has been driven not purely by the affordability of such technology, but consumers' ability to experience entertainment "on their own terms". Consumers are looking for a more convenient solution to obtaining, storing and sharing digital music, movies, photos and more. What they want is convenient and easy access to a wide range of digital content, regardless of the source, across various devices and the ability to enjoy it at anytime, anywhere throughout the home where they can sit back and relax or even on mobile devices while on the go.

This new usage model is set to take off to a even higher level with the launch of Intel's second generation dual core processors, the Intel® CoreTM2 Duo for consumer desktop PCs. This is a huge leap forward in processor design delivering a performance leap not seen since the launch of the original Pentium chip some ten years ago

The Intel Core 2 Duo processor family consists of five desktop processors tailored for business, home, workstation and enthusiast users, such as high-end gamers, and five processors for the mobile lifestyle. Containing 291 million transistors, these Intel Core 2 Duo dual core processors are designed to provide energy efficient performance yet run demanding multiple applications faster, enabling users to improve tasks such as viewing and playing high-definition video more smoothly, protecting the PC and its assets during e-commerce transactions, and provide longer battery life with sleeker and lighter notebooks

The new processors provide as much as a 40% increase in performance and are 40 percent more energy efficient versus the best Intel® Pentium® processor. Initial PCs are available today, with more desktop and laptops arriving throughout August.

For consumers, the added performance power and energy efficiency of the Intel Core2 Duo processor not only means that they can do even more with their entertainment, it means lower-power consumption and quieter systems for the home. With the power of dual cores, the processors can manage numerous tasks faster. They also can operate more smoothly when multiple applications are running, such as writing emails while downloading music or videos and conducting a virus scan in the background.

With the Intel Core2 Duo processor, gamers can also look forward to a new level of realism in dynamic gaming, whether challenging yourself or competing with other online gamers. The ability to manage high definition graphics smoothly will deliver a whole new level to the gaming experience.

These new Core2 Duo processors are simply the best processors in the world. Whether in performance power or energy efficiency, the new generation of Intel Core2 Duo processors will give consumers control and simplicity for all their digital entertainment anytime, anywhere, and anyway they want it.

Why are Intel Core 2 Duo processors the world's best processors? Please visit www.intel.com/core2duo

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LIFESTYLE

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SOPRANO Rachelle Gerodias with the **UST** Symphony Orchestra performs an excerpt from the opera during the press conference. JAMES BARR

The UST Conservatory of Music has chosen Tchaikovsky's very demanding 'Eugene Onegin' to stage in order to present opera in its 'purest form' to Filipinos

UST MUSIC Dean Raul Sunico: "'Eugene Onegin' entails an enormous number of talents, and maximum participation of singers and musicians."

Ground-breaking opera opens Sept. 29

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE DASHING ALEXANder Pushkin (1799-1837) was killed in a duel defending his honor, for he believed a young French aristocrat, Georges d'Anthes, was having an affair with his wife, who was a great beauty and a flirt. Pushkin is, without a doubt, Russia's greatest poet.

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) agonized over his homosexuality, went through the motions of a disastrous marriage, was befriended (and later rejected) by a wealthy benefactress in a poignant, platonic relationship, and died of cholera after drinking polluted water.

Tchaikovsky, a melodic genius, is arguably Russia's greatest composer. He composed the opera "Eugene Onegin" (the *n* is pronounced as *ñ*), based on a long narrative poem which is Pushkin's masterpiece.

"Eugene Onegin" is a story of unfulfilled love set amid the aristocratic circles of Czarist Russia. It focuses on Tatyana who is madly in love with the fashionable Eugene, who rejects her. Years later, however, Eugene realizes he really loves Tatyana, but she is now married and no longer interested in him.

To celebrate its 60th founding anniversary, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Conservatory of Music is staging "Eugene Onegin" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines at the end of the month; it is a ground-breaking, full-length, big-budget, slam-bang production, with a slew of formidable talents in the performing arts pitching in.

Biggest music school

The UST Conservatory of Music was founded in 1946 by Fr. Gregorio Garcia, O.P. Veteran singer-voice teacher Irma Potenciano, the noted soprano, was a voice student under Salvacion Opus Yñiquez in 1956, and she has fond memories of the conservatory.

"The conservatory was just a quonset hut then beside the Architecture building along Governor Forbes St. (now Arsenio Lacson Street)," she recalls. "UST was segregated then, there were stairways for the male and for the female students. Now they're smooching in the corridors! In my batch were Sylvia la Torre, Conching Rosal, Gloria Coronel, Erlinda Azcuña... Some went abroad."

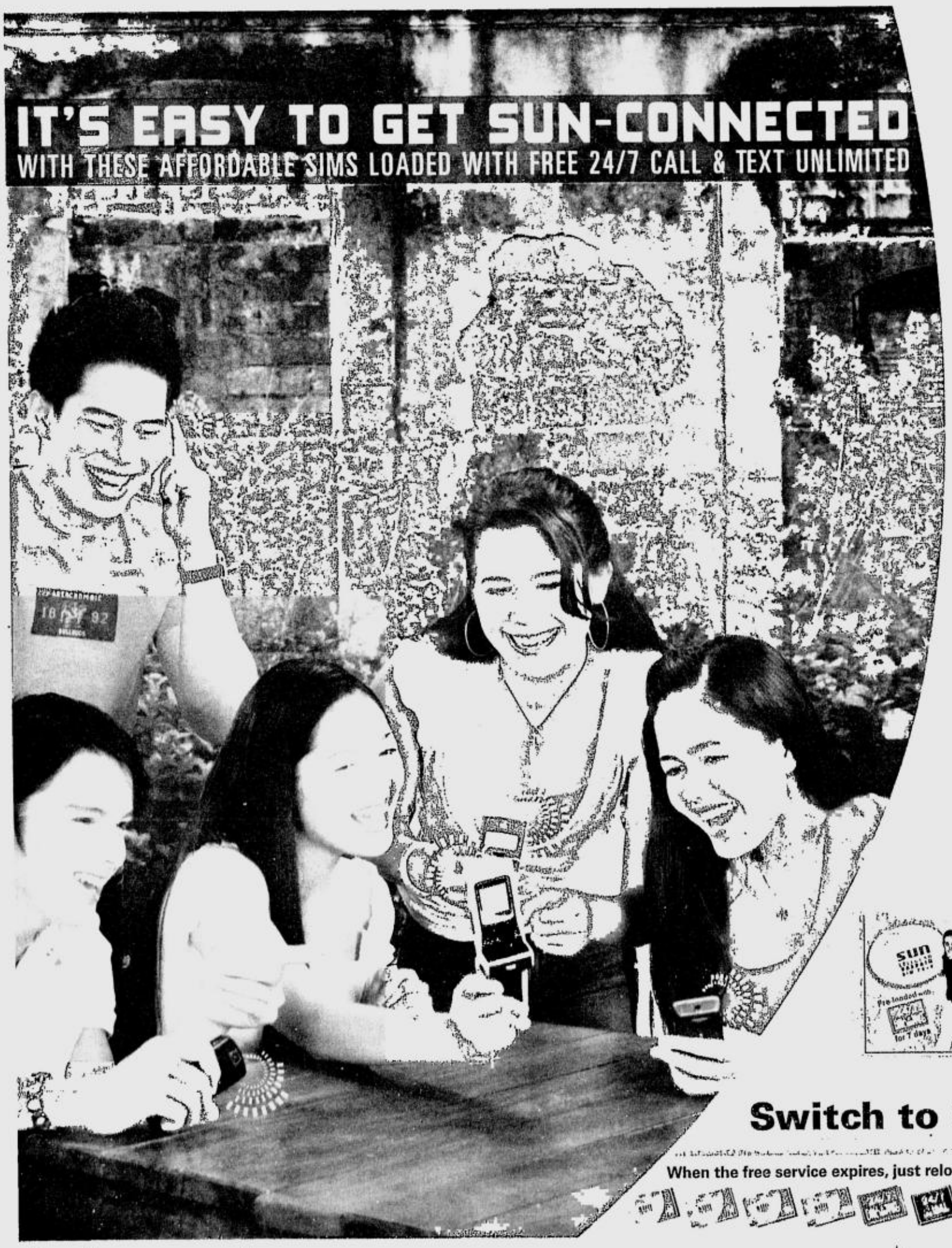
Potenciano, then Ms Ponce Enrile, adds: "Even then, the conservatory was making a name for itself." That reputation grew, the facilities and the student body expanded, until the conservatory is now the biggest school of its kind in the Philippines and probably in Asia with over 600 students and some 80 faculty members.

UST Conservatory deans have included Bernardino Custodio, Sergio Esmilla Sr., National Artist Antonino Buenaventura, Erlinda Fule and—the present dean—Raul Sunico, the concert pianist and mathematician.

Pure opera

In a recent press conference at the

GROUND-BREAKING/ C2



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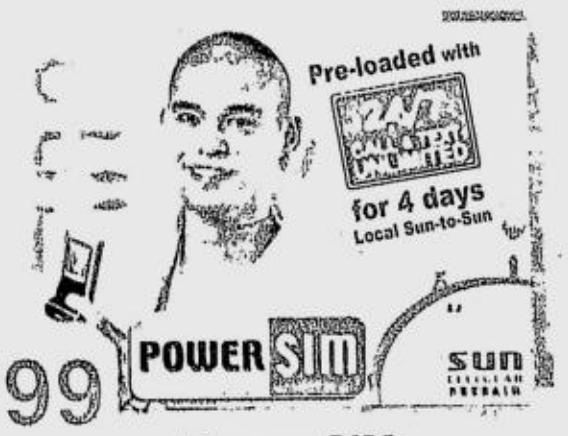

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BARITONE Andrew Fernando (above); Coro Tomasino and the UST Opera Chorus (left)

Ground-breaking opera opens Sept. 29

Directing

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THERE IS MORE TO FLOY QUINtos than being the director of "Startalk" or the juror of "Pinoy Pop Superstar."

Quintos is the playwright who wrote "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos," and he happens to love opera. He is, in fact, directing the opera production of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin," by the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Conservatory of Music.

The Tchaikovsky opera is only his second full-length opera assignment, the first being Mozart's "The Abduction of the Seraglio," which he staged for the UP College of Music.

For his first opera directorial assignment from the UST Conservatory, Floy had many ideas. He had been mulling a new version of "Tosca" when Dean Raul Sunico of the UST Conservatory asked him to direct "Eugene Onegin," which has never been done in its full-length version in the country.

Quintos says he treats corporate shows and popular directorial assignments as sheer *raket* (bread and butter). But not opera.

"I like to think of operatic endeavors as leaps of faith," says Quintos. "I have a staff that's with me in all kinds of *raket*. But in the first production meeting for 'Onegin,' I told them this production is not one of those *rakets* we used to do. We are doing this for the sheer pleasure of the soul.

"I told Dean Sunico that if the production doesn't make money, the school didn't have to pay me. Just listening to the music of this heart-tuggingly beautiful opera is compensation enough."

Affinity

What does it take to direct an opera?

"In my case, I think the first special requirement is a special affinity for music," Quintos says. "I like all kinds of music, but I have a special heart for opera. I did not formally study music but I can relate to both the stories and music of opera."

He says "Eugene Onegin" is one of those operas that needs very little from a director. All it needs is a director who will be faithful to the material, he explains.

"Since the music is already there, what I set out to do is retell the story in a clear way," he says. "Full-length operas only happen once or twice in three years in this country, and I have to make sure they understand the story with good staging.

"But half the job is already done because the singers in the cast are heaven-sent. Rachelle Gerodias and Andrew Fernando are totally amazing to

From page C1

World Trade Center's Skyline Restaurant, Sunico said the conservatory chose "Eugene Onegin" over the more popular operas by Verdi and Puccini because this work entailed "an enormous number of talents, and maximum participation of singers and musicians. We wanted to present an opera in its purest form."

Director Floy Quintos noted that Tchaikovsky's music "aches with jealousy, love and longing. [The composer showed that] opera need not be overly dramatic to be effective."

The opera will be presented in its original language, Russian, and the singers have language coaches led by the wife of the Russian ambassador, Valentina Nebogatova.

CONCHING Rosal

SYLVIA la Torre

FR. GREGORIO Garcia, O.P., founded the UST Conservatory of Music in 1946.

Phalanx of soloists

During the press conference, a phalanx of soloists presented tantalizing excerpts from the opera, accompanied by the UST Symphony Orchestra led by Hermenigildo Ranera.

Sopranos Rachelle Gerodias and Thea Perez alternate as Tatyana, with baritones Andrew Fernando and Noel Azcona alternating as Eugene.

Playing key supporting roles are tenors Lemuel de la Cruz, Randy Gilongo, Eugene de los Santos and Ronan Ferrer; mezzo soprano Clarissa Ocampo; sopranos Mary Patrice Pacis, Nenen Espina and Rexcelus Evangelista; Jesus Emmanuel Baang, and bass Jun Francis Jaranilla.

Vella Damian is choreographer, while Gino Gonzales handles set and costume design. Voice students of the conservatory and selected members of Coro Tomasino serve as the chorus.

"Eugene Onegin" will go on stage at the CCP on Sept. 29 and 30, 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sept. 30.

For tickets, call the UST Conservatory, 7314022 or 4061611 loc. 8246; and CCP, 8323704. Tickets are also available at all Ticketron outlets.

Promoted by the CCP, supported by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and with colorful costumes and sets approximating the period, "Eugene Onegin" promises to be the opera of the year, if not of the decade.

Then...

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g an opera

'Just listening to the heart-tuggingly beautiful music of "Eugene Onegin" is compensation enough'

ACTOR-DIRECTOR Floy Quintos in "Othello"

gether. Rachelle always leaves me in tears every time she sings the Letter Scene, and Carissa Ocampo is a fine actress. I am working with a very professional cast that can do everything with only a slight suggestion from me."

Quintos stresses the need for restraint.

"When the music is good and the singing is good, you don't have to clutter the opera with many things that will distract from the music."

And: "In directing opera, I make it a point not to compete with the music. I also make sure I don't go against the real intent of the author. Without restraint, you can go overboard and really look OA."

Quintos says that when he travels abroad, he watches the latest stage productions. "I saw this new version of "Turandot" in Germany in which the opera harped on the evils of capitalism and I loved it. I saw another production of 'Macbeth' set in an asylum.

"My dream is to mount Strauss' 'Salome' with scenes reminiscent of 'Caligula.' I'd stage the 'Dance of the Seven Veils' in the most provocative way possible. I saw a production of 'Salome' in which the soprano (Catherine Malfitano) really went naked on the scene."

What is the future of opera in the country?

"It's like asking what future awaits this country," Quintos says. "But to answer your question: For as long as we continue to train and develop talents, for as long as we have conservatories which continue to mount productions no matter how small, and for as long as we get the cooperation of institutions that care for opera, I like to think it will survive for many years more."

KALUSUGANG EAR NOSE AND THROAT CORNER
Series 2

Q: WHAT IS ALLERGIC RHINITIS (AR)?
A: Recurrent cold in an allergic person triggered by exposure to allergens with symptoms of:
- Sneezing
- Clear, watery nasal discharge
- Nasal obstruction
- Nose & eye itchiness

Q: WHAT TRIGGERS ALLERGIC RHINITIS?
A: ALLERGENS:
- House dust mite
- Pollen
- Animal dander
- Cockroaches
- Molds

Q: HOW DO I KNOW I HAVE SINUSITIS AND NOT ALLERGIC RHINITIS (AR)?
A: When your cold persists for more than seven days with:
- yellow to green nasal and post nasal discharge
- fever
- headache

then you already have sinusitis.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON: ALLERGIC RHINITIS

Q: ARE COMMON COLD & ALLERGIC RHINITIS THE SAME ILLNESS?
A: NO
Common cold results from exposure to someone with viral infection.

Non-Allergic Rhinitis is triggered by:
- Change in environmental temperature
- Smell of kerosene, chemicals and perfume
- Tobacco, smoke or exhaust fumes

Allergic Rhinitis can impair your daily activities causing problems at work or in school.

Q: HOW CAN I PREVENT ALLERGIC RHINITIS?
A:
- Avoid exposure to allergens
- Cover nose when you clean the house
- Regularly change beddings and curtains
- Keep pets out of the house
- Avoid carpet rugs

Q: WHAT CAN I DO IF I HAVE ALLERGIC RHINITIS?
A: Determine what allergens trigger your symptoms and avoid them. Antihistamines, topical steroids, decongestants and other medications can be prescribed by your ENT doctor depending on severity of your condition.

Q: WHAT IS ANTIHISTAMINE?
A: It is one of the more important medications to control the symptoms of Allergic Rhinitis, and it is commonly taken orally. It can be sedating or non-sedating. Active individuals like students and workers are advised to take oral non-sedating antihistamines. Those who need rest can take sedating antihistamines.

Allergic Rhinitis is a recurrent lifelong condition. It can be cured but can be controlled by medication and avoidance of exposure to trigger. Proper understanding of this condition and timely consultation with your ENT doctor will enable you to better manage your allergic symptoms and prevent occurrence of complications.

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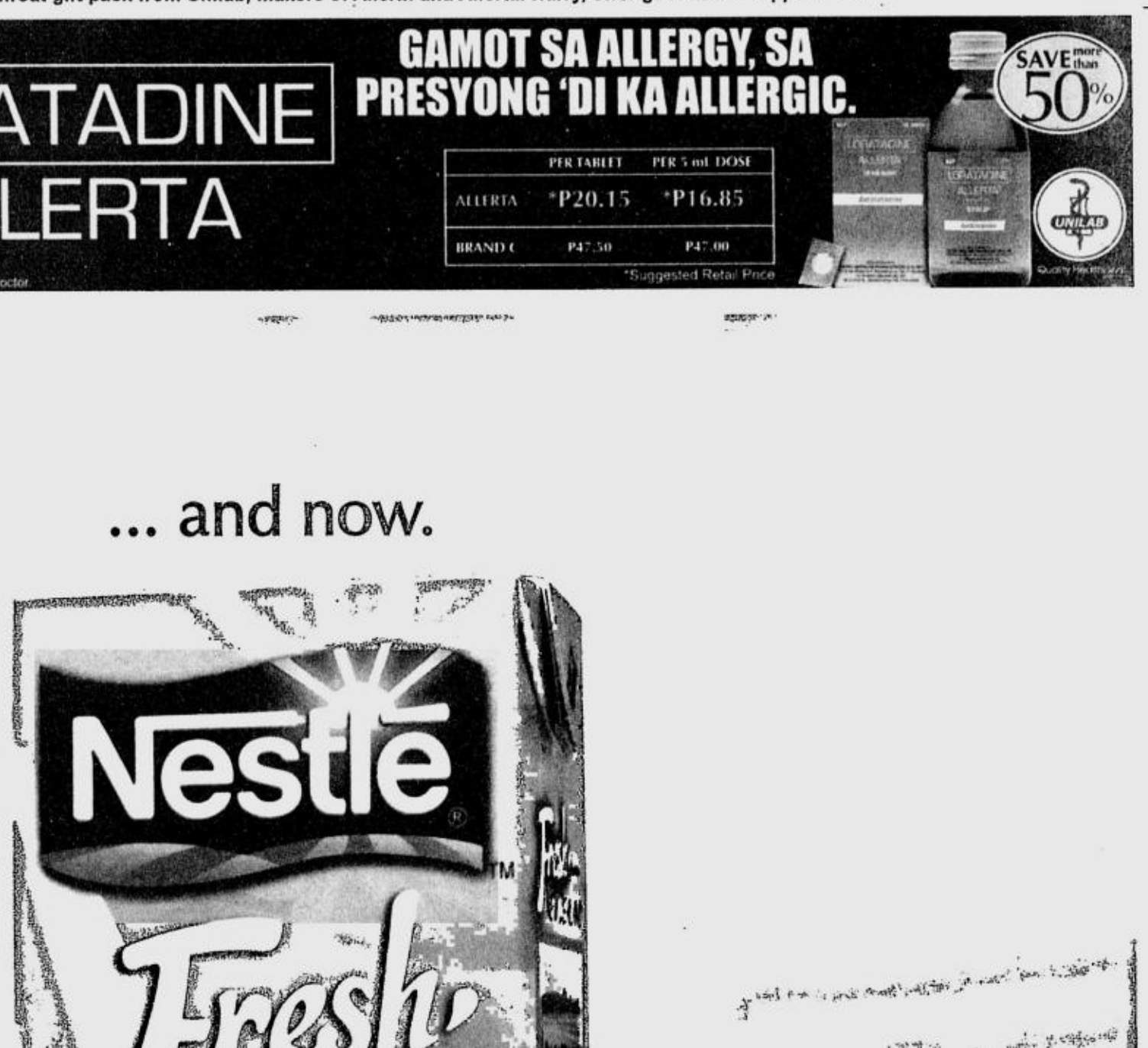

The new look and name of Nestlé Fresh Low Fat Milk.

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Dulaang UP's 'Shock Value' goes on extended run

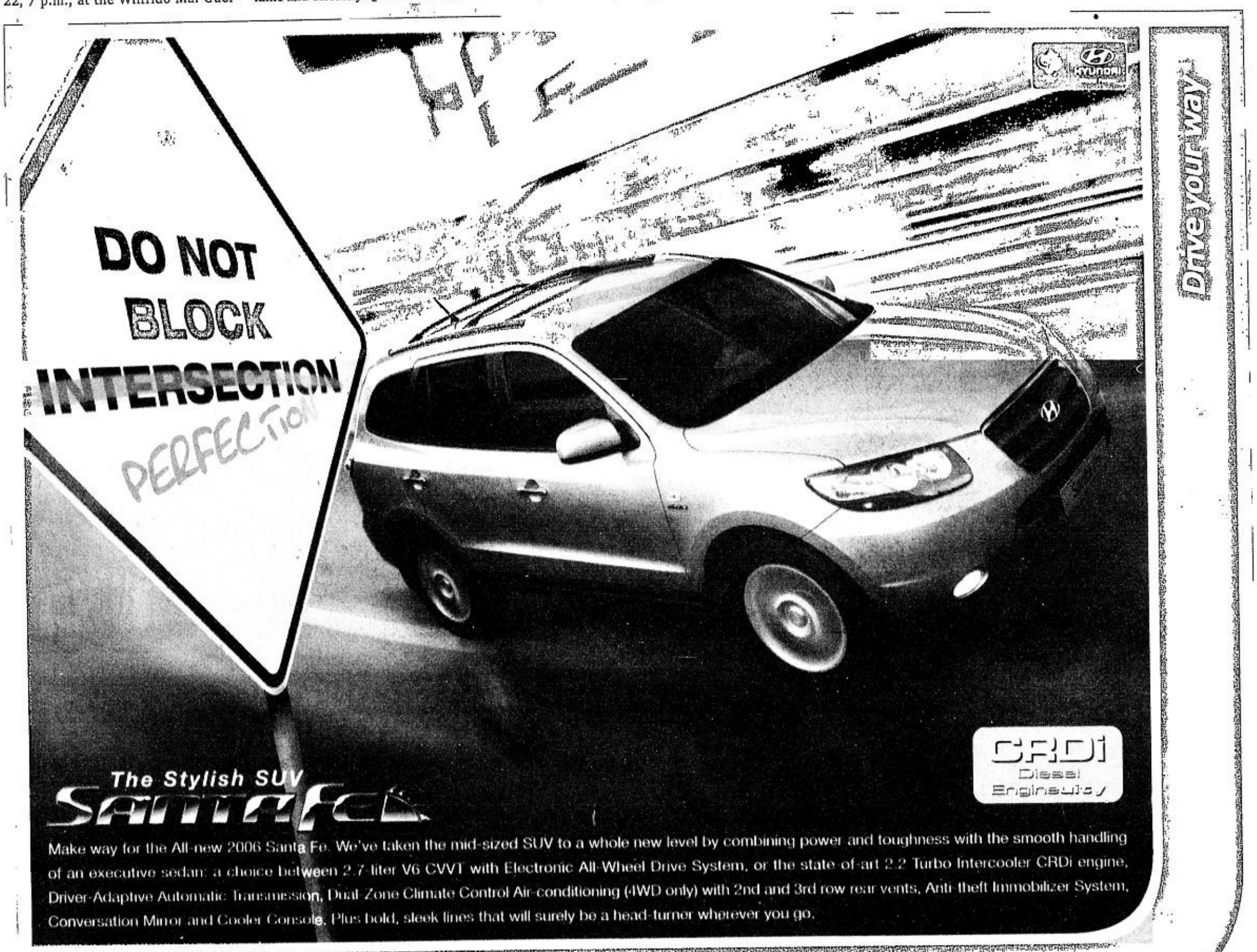
"SHOCK VALUE," THE DULAANG UP production written by Floy Quintos and directed by Alexander Cortez, will have extended runs on Sept. 21-22, 7 p.m., at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F, Palma Hall, UP Diliman.

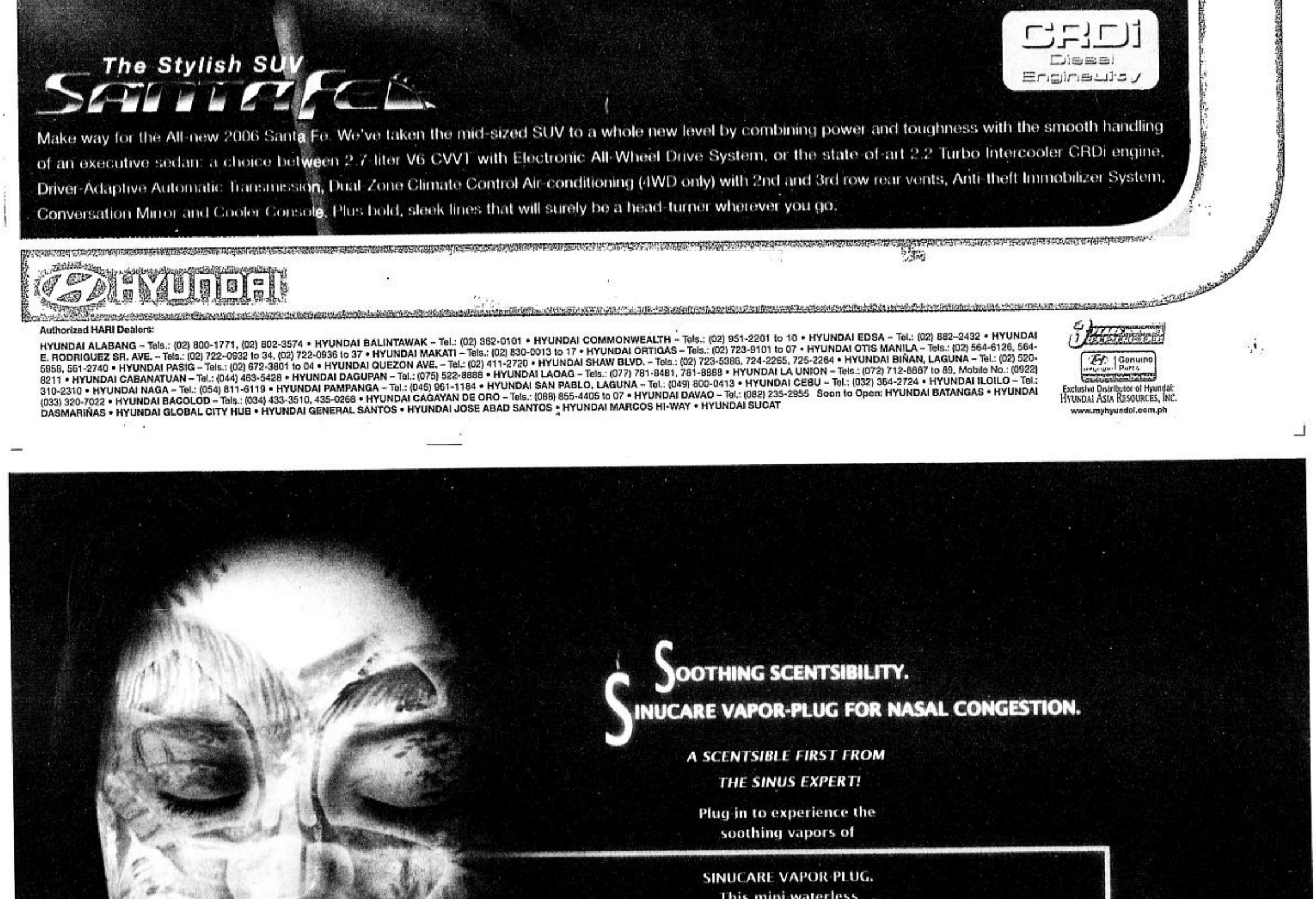
The play satirizes the TV/film industry and takes a hard look at the wages of fame and celebrity. Quintos calls it a "little fable about fame... A fable people by caricatures by now familiar to TV audiences."

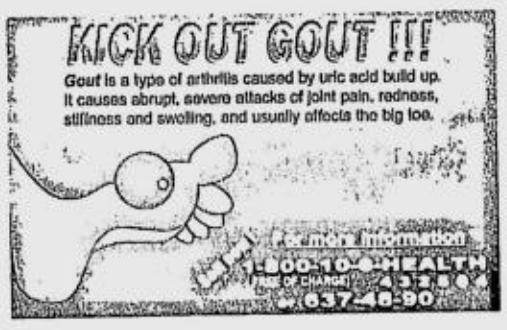
"Shock Value" features seasoned performers like Andoy Ranay, John Frederick Fajardo-Cruz, Missy Maramara, Frances Makil-Ignacio, Stella Canete, Jomari Jose, Mario Magallona, Randy Concepcion, plus Theater Arts students of UP Diliman.

This new play is the third hit, after "Fluid" and "St. Louis love dem Filipinos... the Musical," of the Cortez-Quintos tandem.

Call 9261349 or 0919-3876650.







MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

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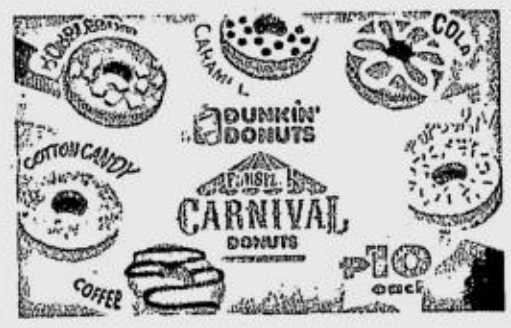
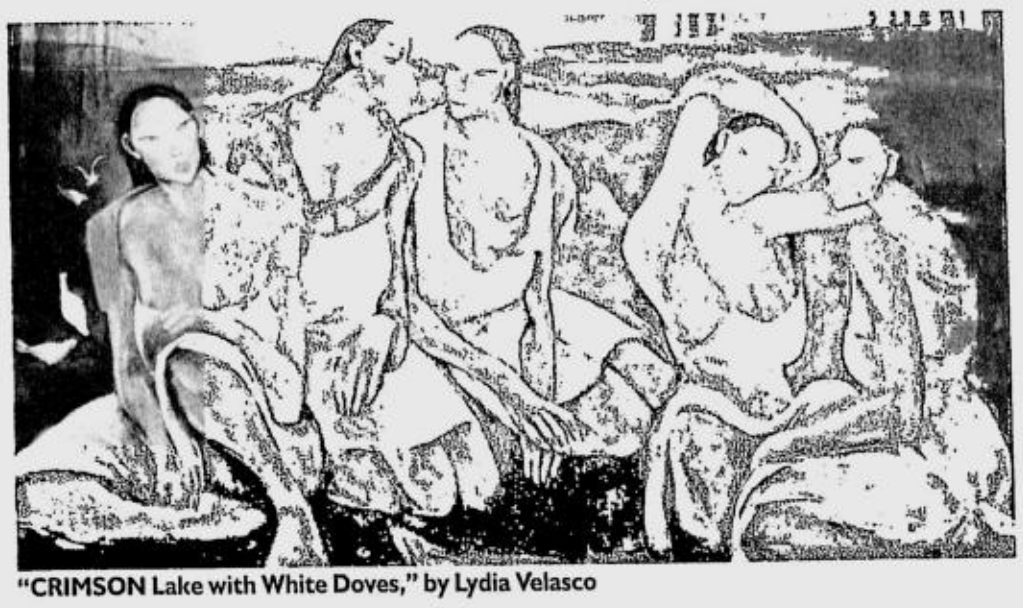


Three generations

Lydia Velasco and her daughters and grandkids have become an art clan



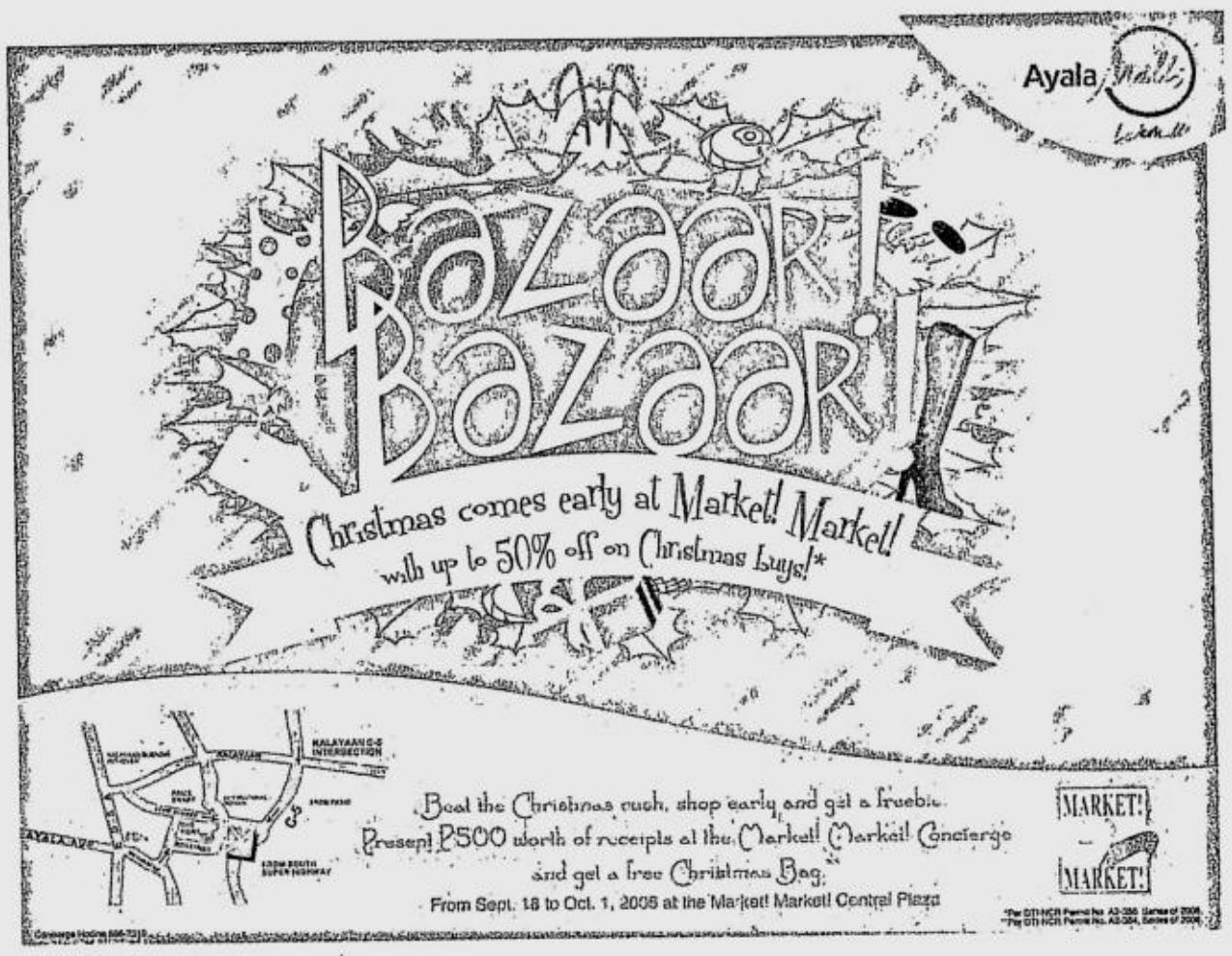
"CRIMSON Lake with White Doves," by Lydia Velasco

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

LYDIA VELASCO AND HER two daughters and three young grandchildren have become a clan of artists. Their first family exhibit is "Salinlahi," mounted by ArtAsia (Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, until Sept. 30).

There are no hard and fast rules imposed by the matriarch for the other artists of the exhibit. This is understandable since Lydia Velasco is a free spirit. Her subjects are the same women who have asserted themselves in life

THREE/ D2



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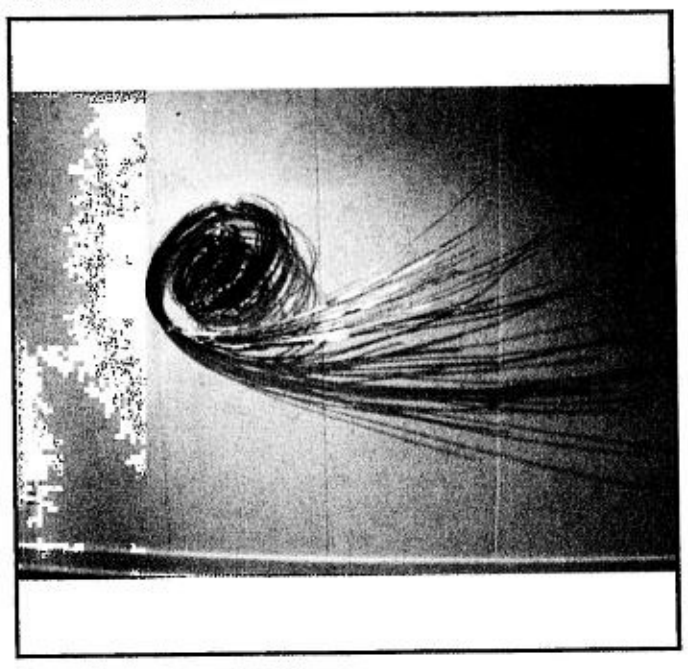

"SPARK," by Impy Pilapil

Impy, Lao and Sanchez at Avellana

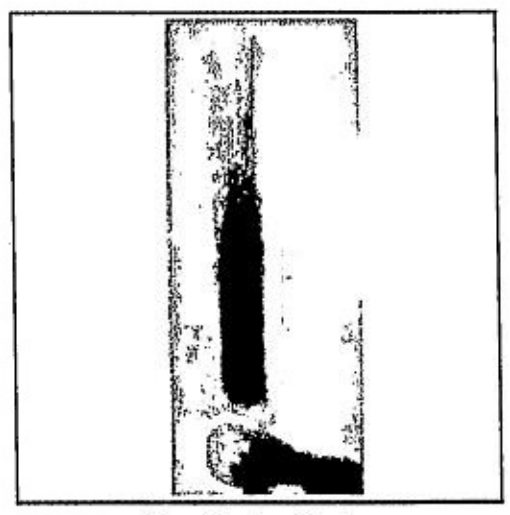
OPENING TODAY IN AVELLANA ART Gallery are three shows from some of the country's best artists.

Rosario Sanchez's "Chicken Ballet" is a suite of vivid works in mixed media (pastel, gold and silver leafing, sheets of telephone directory), which pay homage to articulate thought and lines and colors that hold metaphors in place.

"Spiral of Life" is Impy Pilapil's centrifugal reflection on life as an ever evolving journey, visualized as a spiraling line of steel.

Lao Lianben's "Head & Zen" is the artist's masterful construction of thought as a spectacle against the world's corrugated surface. The exhibits run until Oct. 7.

Avellana Art Gallery is at at A-19, 2680 F.B.Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.


"HEAD and Zen," by Lao Lianben

"FAIR Meek Blossom," by Rosario Sanchez

Edwin Sion, portrait artist

ARTIST Edwin Sion

By Minnie Francia
Contributor

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON Aquino declared his work her favorite. "With its understated, disciplined lines... Edwin really made me look beautiful," she said.

Artist Edwin Sion is known for his portraits that can be described as dreamy. There is a sense of serenity in his art as he uncannily captures the soul of his subject by emphasizing its windows—the eyes.

"I leave the eyes unfinished until the last moment," he explains. "I try to emphasize through the subject's eyes his soul and personality."

Portrait artists are a dime a dozen but Sion's distinctive style has put him above the rest. His brown-pencil or sepia portraits are seen through a haze within an indefinable and unchanging time frame. He has broadened his style to color portraits or pastel on paper but these still retain the same ethereal quality as his sepia works.

"I try to deviate from the traditional portrait," says Sion. "I want to have my own identity when it comes to my works, so that they won't look like other portraits. When you see one, you know at once that I made it."

President Aquino gave him his first break when her commissioned portrait eventually landed on the cover of the 1986-1987 edition of the Fookien Times Philippines Yearbook. He was also commissioned by House Speaker Ramon Mitra to render the portraits of the country's House Speakers. For reasons of continuity of style, he still gets called to draw the portraits of new House Speakers.

"BENNY de Ocampo"

"MONETTE Rivera"

During the Aquino Administration, he was commissioned to do the portraits of official guests of Malacañang, including Japanese Prime Minister Noburo Nakashita, Taiwanese President Li Teng Hui, and US Secretary of State George Schultz.

He did a sepia portrait of then Tarlac Gov. Tingting Cojuangco's three daughters, Mikee, Mai Mai and China. Sion is also proud of having made a portrait of former US First Lady Hilary Clinton, which was given to her as a gift during her visit to the Philippines.

In November 1993, Sion joined an exhibit of Filipino artists at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

Despite growing up in an obscure town in Palawan—the son of a fisherman and a vegetable vendor—Sion rose above his circumstance to hone his artistic talents. After obtaining his Fine Arts degree from Philippine Women's University, he became an apprentice in a studio where he avidly soaked up everything there was to learn in his craft.

He then joined group exhibits where he further developed the refined, polished and controlled technique as well as the highly distinctive style he is known for.

An instinctive yet systematic painter, Sion approaches his art with intellect and intuition. "Before doing a portrait, I look at my subject from all angles and then endeavor to go beyond the physical appearance while I observe individual traits mannerisms, character and personality."

Call 4556263 or 0917-9486494.

"JOHNNY Soriano"

Magno's 'Rock of Ages'

A MONTH BEFORE HIS WORK "Peaceful Duet" (36" x 48") will be put on the auction block at Sotheby's Southeast Asian Art category, Carlo Magno's 2006 works will be presented in an exhibit, "Rock of Ages," at Glorietta's Artspace (3/F, Glorietta 4, Makati). The exhibit is a collaboration of Art Central, Galerie Joaquin and Galerie Francesca.

Aside from Magno's work, among those to be bidded out by Sotheby's on Oct. 22 in Hong Kong are works by National Artists Fernando Amorsolo, Vicente Manansala, H.R. Ocampo, and Jose Joya, and by Presidential Medal of Merit for Art awardees Romeo Tabuena, Nena Saguil and Juvenal Sanso.

Magno is included under the New Contemporary Artists category, the same section where Mario Parial, E. L. Cordova, Lydia Velasco have made their marks.

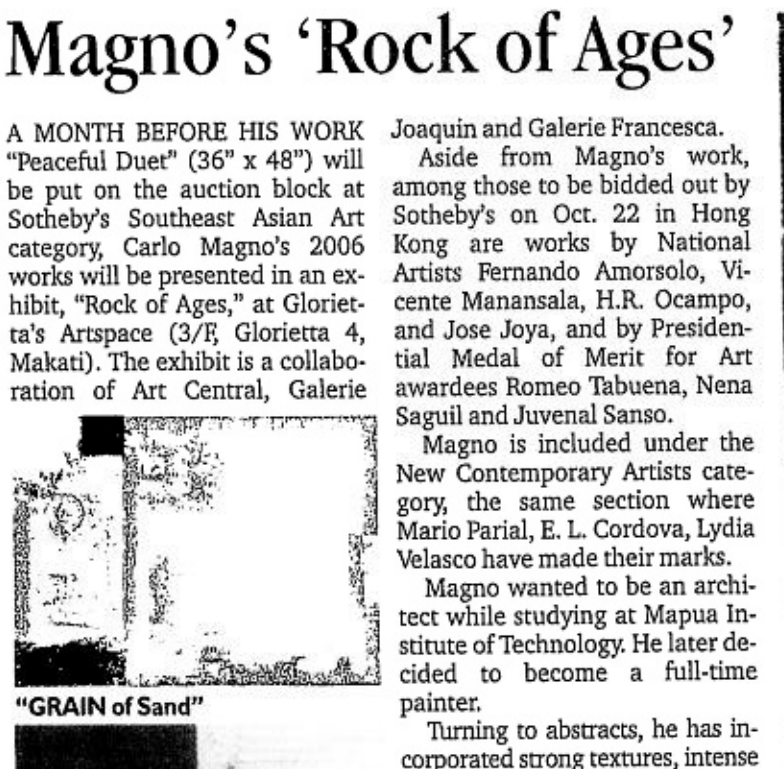
Magno wanted to be an architect while studying at Mapua Institute of Technology. He later decided to become a full-time painter.

Turning to abstracts, he has incorporated strong textures, intense light sources, elements of Oriental abstractionism, and different media as integral parts of his art pieces. Today he is one of the more successful abstract artists.

The show opens on Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m, and runs until Sept. 25. Call 7282265 or 7239253.

"GRAIN of Sand"

"INFINITE Moments"


"GOLDEN Line"

"SPARKLING Violet," by Joshua Ramon Cruz

"LIZA" I, by Chie Cruz

"NOAH'S Ark," by Trina de la Cruz

Three generations

From page D1

and in art, totally unmindful of the restrictions and dogmas unilaterally imposed by the male-dominated world.

Velasco, a retired advertising executive, is the personification of her women in her canvases. Beneath the frail constitution lies a woman of substance: the main breadwinner who has stood by her family through thick and thin, a modern-day matriarch who presides over family affairs with her resolute will to be on top of the hierarchy. The Velasco women are in total control of their lives—and art.

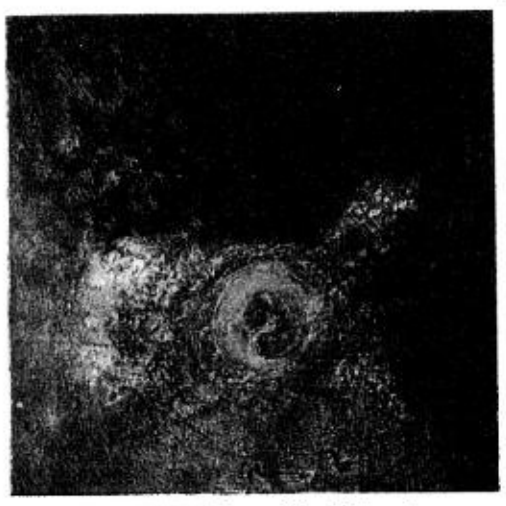
The subjects of her recent work have grown more sensual and iconoclastic, betraying an exterior of feminine charm with their broad, solid shoulders, their feline faces, their feral hands. Opting to work in quick-drying acrylic, Velasco paints women in casual yet graceful decorum, the expressionist touches revealing a veneer of contradictory qualities.

There is a seething air of irreverence in these women yet the spiritual mood of contemplation takes precedence. This is a mirror of Filipino womanhood as delineated by one of her most knowing portraitists.

Also irreverent

Velasco's two daughters, Chie and Chigo, are also made of irreverent stuff.

A sculptor working in fiberglass, Chie prefers to capture the human figure in its multifaceted realm: standing, sitting, squatting, in a state of suspended animation. Their faces bear an uncanny resemblance to their creator.


"THE WEIGHT of Water," by Chigo Cruz

Their realist sensibility, coupled with postmodern countenance, makes for a truly human and humane understanding of the figure.

Chigo, paints in the abstract mode, particularly in the untrammeled tradition, with her white backgrounds, unpredictable color for textural effects, broad, spontaneous movements. The choice of color is equally atypical, tapping both sides of the spectrum, and a style of brushwork that borders on the edgy and the quirky.

In "The Weight of Water," in mixed media, a reddish blot emerges from a pool of grimy, greenish-colored pool, an allusion to the growing menace of pollution that has permeated our rivers and seas.

"LILAC Rhapsody," by Lydia Velasco

The three Velasco tykes—Joshua, sisters Trina and Bea—are a revelation in their firm grip of paint and brush.

Joshua, 11, son of Chie, works in the abstract style. The colors are bold and bright, as do his images of imagined landscapes and pathways dotted with trees and flowers that lead to a heavenly site.

The two girls, the chubby Trina and the precocious Bea, are colorists, who, like their grandmother, have an exuberant sense of wanderlust. Trina likes to explore the seas while Bea dreams of distant worlds, grasping image with the flick of her brush and the flicker of paint.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

VISUAL ARTS

"SPIRIT of Edsa 2," by Ed Castrillio

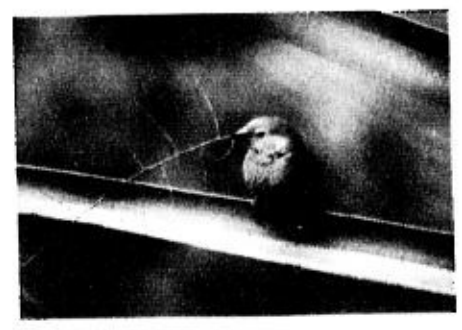
"THE DEATH of Summer," by Andres Barrioquinto; "White Noise" 2, by Bert Antonio; and "I," by Olan Ventura

Barrioquinto at West

Andres Barrioquinto presents "Traces," Sept. 20-Oct. 3, at the West Gallery, Art Center, 4/L, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The exhibit will showcase the artist's "gradual shift" to realism. It discusses religion, love, sin, hatred and different perspectives in life. A Fine Arts graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, Barrioquinto is a member of the Young Thomasian Artists Circle. He received the Thirteen Artists Award of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 2003. Meanwhile, Olan Ventura's "Flat Reality" runs until today, at West Gallery in SM Megamall. The exhibit features seven new works in oil and acrylic. Also in the same gallery is Bert Antonio's "Bittersweet: 16 Paintings," until Oct. 3. Antonio works with the juxtaposition of opposing qualities—the loose with the rigid, the subtle with the direct, impulse and contemplation—woven together. Call 6341284.

Zubiri photos at One Workshop

The One Workshop Gallery presents "Out of Africa," photographs by Migs Zubiri, Sept. 22-26. The exhibit is for the benefit of the Bukidnon Deer Park and Wildlife Center. Call 8105094, 8192074 or 0917-8170198. E-mail owgallery @yahoo.com.



BY MIGS Zubiri

STONEWARE by Hanna Pettyjohn

Hanna Pettyjohn at Finale

The owl—solitary, nocturnal, harbinger of either good or bad omen—takes on an unnerving streak in Hanna Pettyjohn's "A Disheartened Migration from Rejected Relations," opening at Finale Art Gallery on Sept. 21. The exhibit introduces a parliamentary of owls in stoneware, rudimentary but deeply familiar figures with their hawk-like beaks, holes for eyes and well-tucked feathers. They huddle in uncharacteristic camaraderie and are supremely poised for attention, their blank gaze echoing their resplendent otherworldliness. Exhibit runs until Oct. 10. Finale is at 4/F, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong. Call 6342411.

Eduardo Castrillo at UST Museum

Sculptor Eduardo Castrillo will mark his 40th year as an artist this year with a series of shows. "Castrillo at 40: Conceptualizing Symbols of Heritage" will open on Sept. 22 at the University of Santo Tomas Museum. An alumnus of the UST College of Architecture and Fine Arts, Castrillo holds the show as contribution to UST's quadricentennial celebration in 2011. It collects the artist's conceptual drawings of historical monuments he has made here and abroad. "From the Drawing Board" will run Oct. 5-30 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines; "Facets of Style, Medium and Form" will run starting Oct. 16 at the Yuchengco Museum; and "New Works," a selling exhibit, will open at the Choice Expression Gallery on Jupiter Street, Makati on Dec. 1.

'Ordinary' photos at Heart Center

"Ordinary Photographs," an exhibit by photography hobbyists Orestes Monzon, a physician-radiologist, and E.O. Valdez Tan will run Sept. 25-Oct. 14 at the Art Gallery on the lobby of the Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, QC. The exhibit is presented by Human Life International Asia, Journeys of Faith and Kodak Philippines. Call 0917-8116304 or 9266177. E-mail voices4life@gmail.com. Visit www.hli.org or www.lifeissues.net.

PHOTOS by Orestes Monzon and E.O. Valdez Tan

Australian artist at De las Islas

Galeria de las Islas, at 3/F, Silahis Center, 744 Ge. Luna, Intramuros, presents "Sojourn," an exhibit by Australian artist Mark Eddis Shellshear until Sept. 30. The exhibit features both paintings and sculptures reflecting the artist's impressions of life in rural Philippines. Call 5272113.

"SECRETS of the Market," by Mark Shellshear

"PALIKURAN," by Bart Aguas

Aguas at Ayala

Ayala Museum presents Bart Aguas' seventh solo show "Tile Tales," until Oct. 1. Twenty choice pieces on Filipino, Malay and Asian motifs make up the exhibit. MuseumSpace is at 2/L, Glass Wing, Ayala Museum, Makati Ave. and De la Rosa St., Makati. Call 7210801, 7241762 or 0917-8991835.

"WHITE Blooms in a Wheelbarrow," by William Alcantara

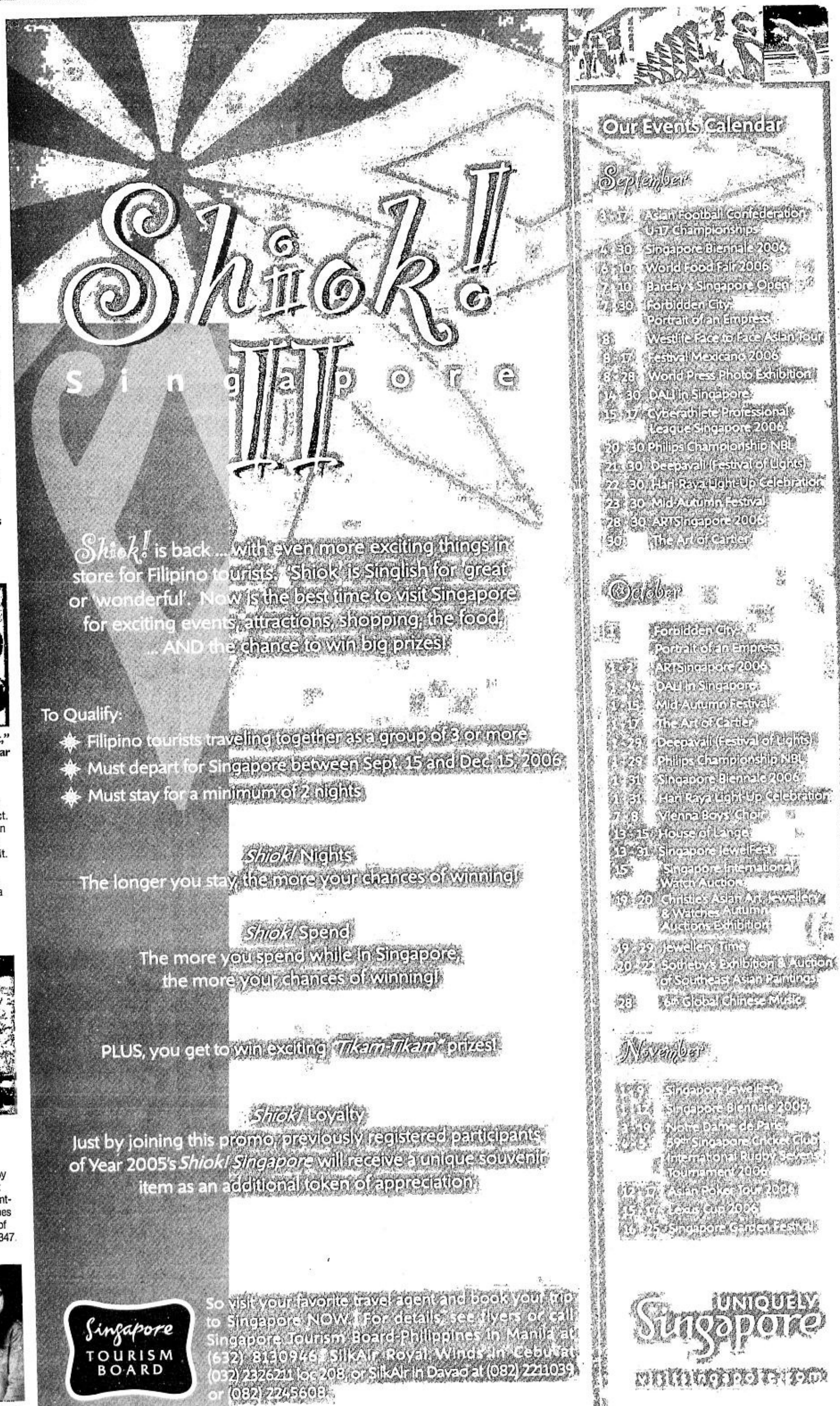
Alcantara at Power Plant

"Breaking Through Time," an exhibit of paintings by William Alcantara, runs until Oct. 2, at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell. Alcantara is known as a realist, painting picturesque compositions of flowers, landscapes and Filipino houses, built in the architectural style of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Call 0920-9624347.

Ingco, Yoshi at Astra

Gerardo Ingco and Tokyo-based Shinobu Yoshii present "Lyrical Gestures," until Sept. 28 at Galerie Astra, 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Reposo St., Makati. The artists say their works are "pure distillations" of their sensitivities. Call 8903988.

GERARDO Ingco and Shinobu Yoshii



WILFREDO OFFEMARIA

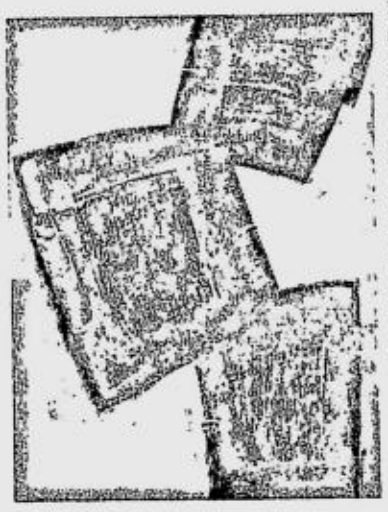
An artist in his element

Wilfredo Offemaria's art is countrified but very sophisticated

By Lito B. Zulueta

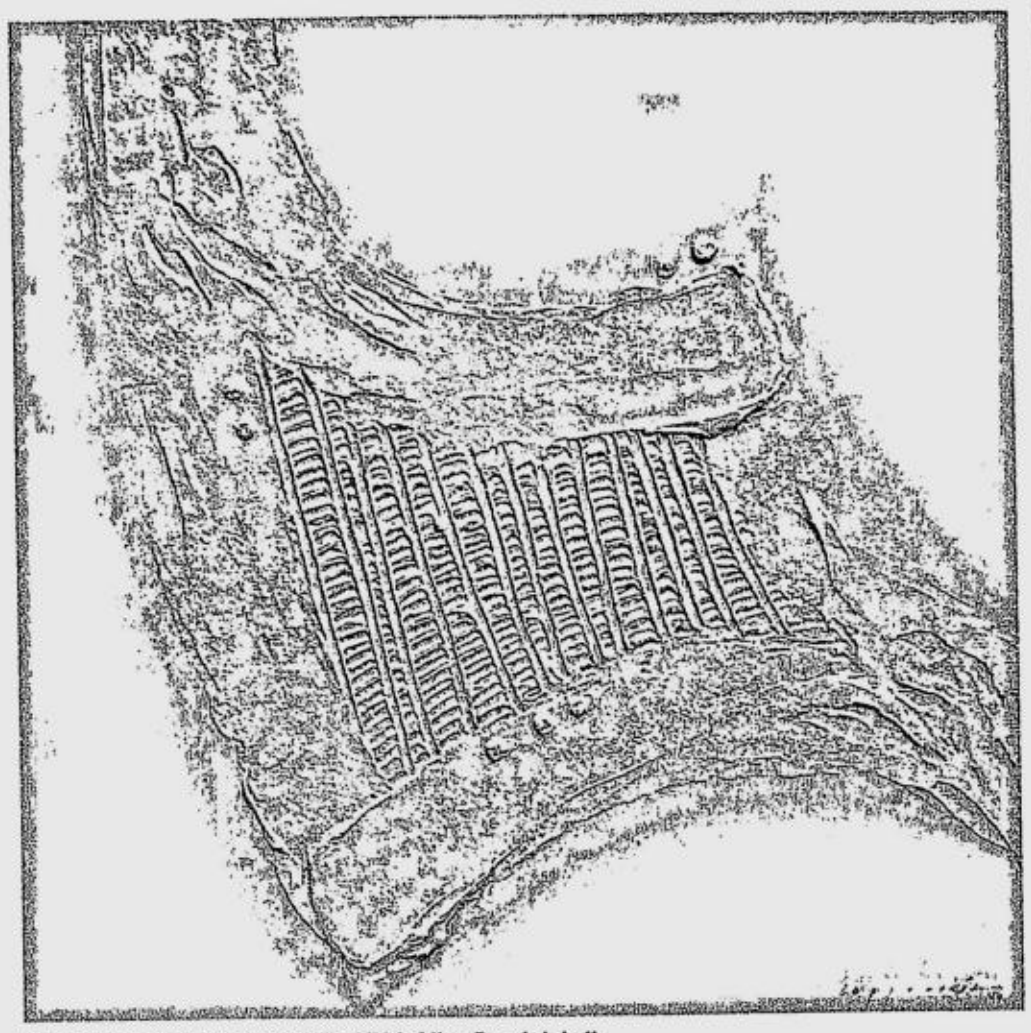
FOR HIS FIRST MAJOR SOLO EXHIBIT, Wilfredo Offemaria has confounded his watchers who have been used to the social figurative idiom of his representative works. In "Elements" (opening at the Blanc Art Space in Makati on Sept. 22), he shows abstracts that conjure the constitutive factors of nature. It is his unique achievement that while he departs from his standard representationalism for which he has gained initial acclaim, he is no less in his element in abstraction.

What the abstracts basically show are Offemaria's brilliant colorism and sharp sense of composition. "Elements," the title work, shows the four forces of nature—earth, wind, fire and water—in auburn splendor, their power evoked by the sweep of the palette knife and the texture of paint. As if to restrain these forces, Offemaria confines them in boxes, and the quadrant is set off in a sea of serene blue. Although wild and destruction-prone, the elements are controlled by the artist's vigorous design.

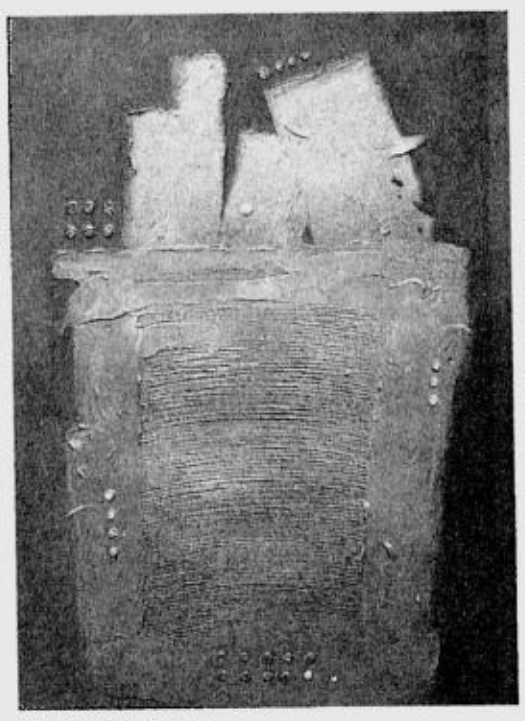


"FROZEN Fire"

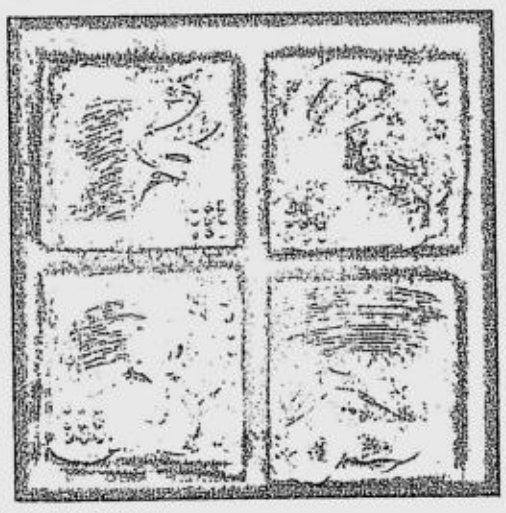
The colors can astound. "Cradle of Fire" is burning sienna set off on a sea of olive green. The same colors and effect are achieved in "Earth and Her Promise," but the promise seems muted by the mood, which invokes calm and serenity; if there's a promise, it's one of anchorage and permanence, rather than of adventure and exploration. "Blue Bounty" achieves embodiment in its huge tangential slabs of industrial blue on a horizon of oceanic blue. The monochromatic trick is repeated in "Green Graces," the jaded continent set off on an emerald sea. The two color families that are favorites of Offemaria's—green and blue—seem to have been blended in "Heavensent," and it's the artist's sporty wit that transforms the two elemental and terrestrial colors into harbingers of the otherworldly.



"AND THE NORTHEAST Wind Bids Him Goodnight"



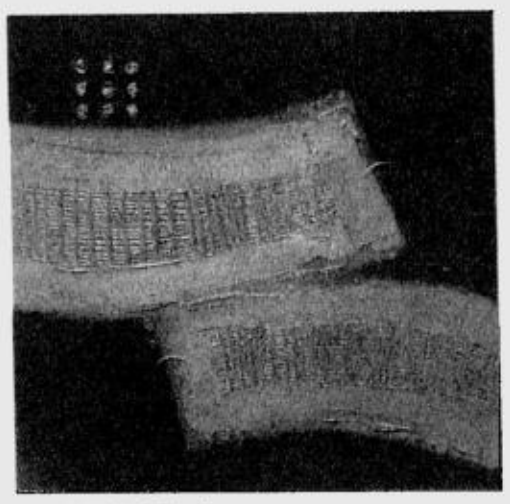
"HEAVENSENT"



"ELEMENTS"

Romantic artist

All of this seems romantic and bucolic, for which Offemaria makes no apologies. The romantic streak is reaffirmed in "And the Northeast Wind Bids Him Goodbye" and "What the West Wind Whispered"—the banality of industrial blue somehow muffled by the gestural art-making. The works are both kinetic and contemplative.



"CRADLE of Fire"

The romantic spirit bridges Offemaria's initial folk-social realism and foray into abstraction. Hailing from Obando, Bulacan, Offemaria has always been rooted to the agrarian and the everyday. The "Guyito" he did for the INQUIRER's 20th anniversary last year shows figures that derive from his simple folk ways—a man selling cigarettes, a kid playing, a mother tending to her baby, and then, quite suddenly, lovers lost in a passionate kiss... The last image credibly builds up Offemaria's case for the rustic and the romantic. He has also drawn canvases reeking of social commentary.

Despite the countrified air, Offemaria's art is not raw or uncouth. The president of the 1993 Painting class of UST, he is well-acquainted with the modern idiom. The idiom and design expertise are in full play in the designs he has made for the apparel industry. And as first-prize winner in watercolor and overall grand-prize winner of the Diwa ng Sining Centennial of Philippine Independence national art contest of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the artist shows he can hold out on his own against more established ones.

It is this marriage of the old and the new, the traditional and the experimental that makes Offemaria's assay into abstraction very intriguing. Still a young man in his 30s, this artist may yet prove our established notions of his art-making wrong. At his most experimental, Offemaria is also at his most elemental.

Wilfredo Offemaria's "Elements" opens on Sept. 22, 7 p.m., at Blanc Art Space, 2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 7520032.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

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Is the National Artist ready for the spotlight?

By Tony S. Espejo
Contributor

"AYOKO NA! PAGOD NA AKO!

"They call me, I go up, receive the trophy, say my little speech and, on the way down, Madame Imelda Romualdez Marcos congratulates me.

"Then they call me again—*Paulit-ulit! Pagod na ako!*"

That was the running joke I had with my companions Alwin and Julius during the recent Annual Aliw Awards Night at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

I was first called as Best Director (non-musical) for Gantimpala Theater Foundation's "The God Stealer" twin-billed with "The Queen's Jewels." These two new plays mark Gantimpala's thrust to stage the works of our National Artists.

At Gantimpala, we do not want to stop at announcements of the National Artist awards. We want to analyze and study the works that precisely made the writer worthy of the title National Artist. Thus, the series of productions featuring their works.

So far, we have done Severino Montano's "Parting at Calamba"; Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's "Wanted: A Chaperon"; Nick Joaquin's "May Day Eve"; Alejandro Roces' "Kiko's Super Cock" presented as "Super Manok"; my winning twin bills and the forthcoming "Forever/Call Me Flory," a melodrama and comedy also written by Guerrero.

The staging of these works introduces them to our huge audience, mostly composed of high-school students. Hopefully this exposure will inspire the young, impressionable students toward a serious attempt at literary excellence and worthwhile contribution to their respective communities.

VALERIE Tan (Mira-Nila), Michael King Urieta (Antonio) and Roeder Camañag (Padre Fernando) in Nick Joaquin's "The Queen's Jewel"

Authentic picture

The next time I had to mount the stage was when my production of "The God Stealer" and "The Queen's Jewel" was voted as the Best Production (non-musical). Ideally, both F. Sionil Jose and the late Nick Joaquin, National Artists for Literature, together with Jose Victor Torres—who adapted the stories into the plays I directed—should have been the ones to receive the award. But since they were not around, I was the only logical person to go up and receive the trophy. *Ay naku, pagod na ako ha.*

"The God Stealer" is about a young Igorot's return to his Mountain Province village to visit his dying grandfather. He brings with him his American boss in Manila, who turns out to be obsessed with bringing home as a souvenir a

IS THE NATIONAL/ E3

Gantimpala Theater has dedicated itself to keeping alive the legacy of our National Artists Nick Joaquin, F. Sionil Jose, Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, Severino Montano and Alejandro Roces

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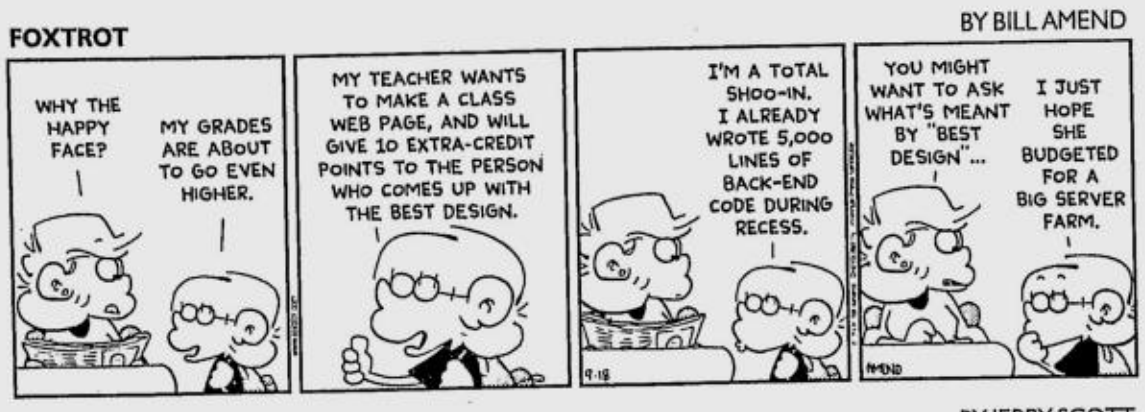
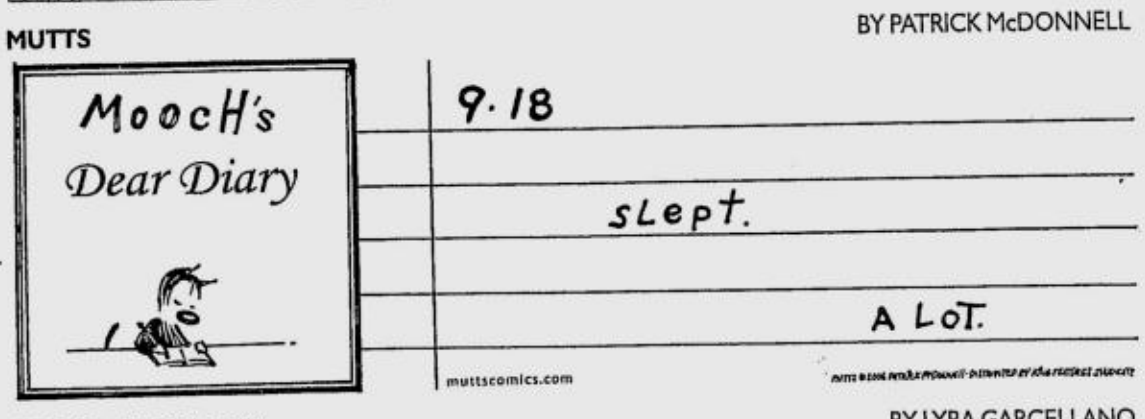


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

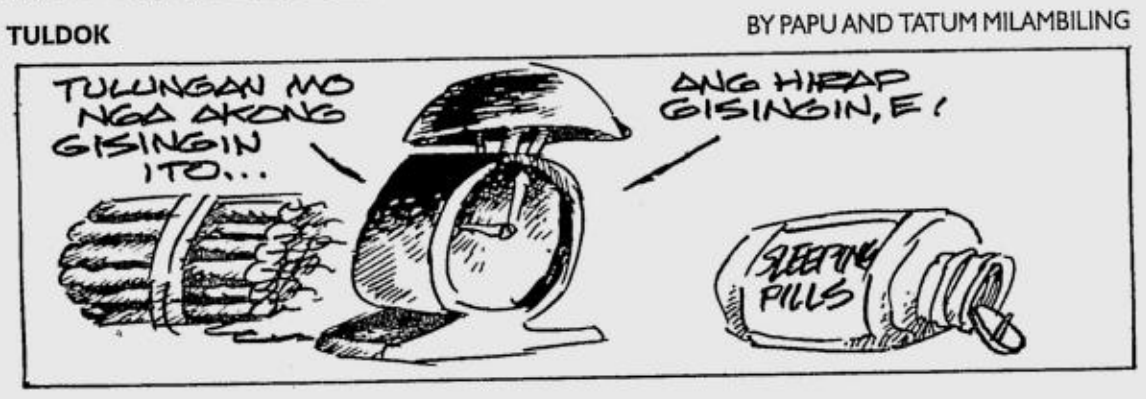
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

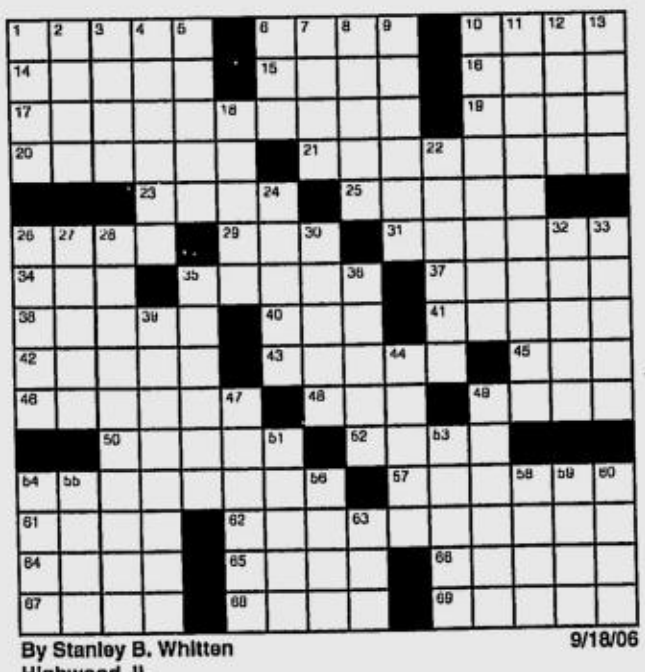


BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Bends out of shape
6 Lead actor
10 Venomous vipers
14 Nimble
15 Encore!
16 Political alliance
17 Conductor's guide
19 Author Ephron
20 Sense of taste
21 Naval might
23 Soft drink
25 Male gamete
26 Foundation
29 Sort
31 Upolu resident
34 Sailor's org.
35 Corridors
37 News anchor Couric
38 Valerie Harper sitcom
40 Lubricate
41 Slur over
42 Conduit for waste
43 Strange
45 Massive ref. work
46 Famed Spanish fleet
48 Wildebeest
49 Connecting words
50 "Island of the Blue Dolphins" author
52 "True __"
54 Rasputin, e.g.
57 Like a hereditary condition
61 Norse deity
62 Equine buddy, perhaps
64 Tree trunk
65 Bart's bus driver
66 Bogged down
67 Snow racer
68 Light gas
69 Frighten

DOWN
1 Stinging insect
2 Turkish VIP
3 Cambodian moola
4 Delight
5 Heated disagreement
6 Dallas sch.
7 Throw
8 Zodiac sign
9 Brief summaries
10 Deviant
11 Common special effect
12 Skin opening
13 Wound reminder
18 Current events sources
22 Topped out
24 Permit
26 Saclike cavity between joints
27 One of Jacob's sons
28 Winter vehicle
30 Carbon-arc lamp
32 Assisted
33 Requirements
35 More difficult
36 Throw
39 Desensitized
44 Bucolic
47 Singer Krauss
49 Kind of bomb
51 Coffee choice
53 Agenda entries
54 Mournful sounds
55 Billy of rock
56 Allied org.
58 Medic or normal lead-in
59 Way of old Rome
60 Surrender formally
63 __ appetit!



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

9/18/06

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	C	C	E	P	T	S	■	R	O	O	M	E	R	S
F	O	L	D	O	U	T	■	E	A	T	C	R	O	W
T	R	I	P	O	L	I	■	S	T	I	M	U	L	I
M	E	N	■	P	E	N	S	E	E	S	■	D	L	V
O	T	T	O	■	S	K	E	W	S	■	C	I	T	E
S	T	O	U	T	■	B	A	S	■	S	O	T	O	L
T	A	N	T	A	L	U	S	■	S	T	R	E	P	S
■	■	■	D	R	A	G	Q	U	E	E	N	■	■	■
S	C	R	A	P	S	■	U	N	N	E	E	D	E	D
C	H	E	T	S	■	R	I	P	■	R	A	R	E	E
H	A	Z	E	■	C	A	R	L	S	■	L	A	R	S
I	L	O	■	C	A	N	T	A	T	A	■	I	I	I
S	I	N	G	I	N	G	■	C	A	P	O	N	E	S
M	C	E	N	R	O	E	■	E	V	E	R	E	S	T
S	E	D	U	C	E	S	■	D	E	S	E	R	T	S

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6/18/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a serious, thoughtful person. You appreciate beauty, and you admire hard work and accomplishments. You're extremely private about your personal life. Many of you have a personal belief or ethic to help you stay on your path. In your early 30s, you become more intense as you discover your personal power. This year you can learn something very valuable and important.
Birthdate of: Lance Armstrong, athlete; James Gandolfini, actor; Jada Pinkett Smith, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day for romance, sports, love affairs, the theater, creative activities and working with children. You might want to address some serious aspects in these areas.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have lots of energy for work today. Therefore, make hay while the sun shines. It isn't always this easy to accomplish stuff. (When you've got the urge, act on it!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a busy day. However, it's also a good day for some long-range planning. Your thinking is a tad conservative right now, but that's OK.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can do some financial planning today. Your mind is sensible and practical right now. That's because the Moon is perfectly lined up with serious, stern Saturn.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today the Moon is in your sign. This can make you a bit more emotional than usual; however, it also brings a little bit of extra good luck your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Work behind the scenes or work alone today, if you can. Don't worry about getting credit for what you do, because you probably won't.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone older, wiser or more experienced can give you advice today. Don't brush off this advice—listen! In all likelihood, this person is female.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Bosses, VIPs, parents and authority figures want to discuss something serious. This is a good day to look at your long-range plans. Don't hesitate to give others your feedback.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Make plans connected with publishing, the media, travel, dealing with foreign countries and higher education. The plans you make today will be doable and practical.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might be hesitant about how to share something with someone. If you have any doubts, put this off until another day. This delay might also ease some worries you have.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You want to say something important to a partner or close friend today. Perhaps you're worried about how what you have to say will be received? (Relax.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're in a good frame of mind to work today. Tackle boring, mundane, detail-oriented tasks, because you have the energy and follow-through to do these things.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

3	2	7						8
		6		9				2
		4	6			1	7	5
			2	8	1	6		
	4						2	
		2	9	5	4			
2	5	3			7	4		
4				2		7		
1						2	8	6

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Difficulty Level ★ 9/18

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	4	3	7	9	2	6	8	5
7	9	8	1	5	6	3	2	4
2	5	6	3	8	4	9	7	1
8	2	9	6	1	5	7	4	3
3	6	5	4	7	8	2	1	9
4	1	7	2	3	9	5	6	8
5	7	2	9	4	1	8	3	6
9	3	4	8	6	7	1	5	2
6	8	1	5	2	3	4	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Is the National Artist ready for the spotlight?

From page E1

native and authentic *bulol*—the tribe's guardian god.

No one in the village wishes to part with their god, so Philip, the young Igorot, is forced to steal his grandfather's *bulol* for his boss. The loss of the native god causes the untimely demise of the grandfather and, in remorse, the young man decides to stay behind and continue the traditional work of his grandfather.

Highlighted by native sounds from gongs and bamboo clappers, plus an Ifugao warrior dance, "The God-Stealer" paints a strong an authentic picture of the life of the village.

"The Queen's Jewels," meanwhile, is loosely based on the Nick Joaquin short story "The Legend of the Virgin's Jewels." This is a mythological stab at how the Catholic friars converted the primitive worshipping natives into believers. With a cursed serpent as the guardian of the Queen's Jewels, a lot of sword fights and the miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary who heals the serpent-bitten friar, the play makes for a very entertaining study of the ways of conversion used by the Church.

Two of my actors, Roeder Camañag and Joel Molina, were nominated for Best Actor in a non-musical for their work in "The God-Stealer."

ROEDER Camañag and Wowie de Guzman in F. Sionil Jose's "The God-Stealer"

THE AUTHOR Tony Espejo, founding president and artistic director of Gantimpala

Special award

The third time I had to go up the stage was to receive a special award for my work in the theater for the past 30 years. Also given special awards were Sharon Cuneta, the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Dance Company, and the Heart Foundation of the Philippines. Pretty good company, you must agree! *Pero pagod na talaga ako, aakyat na naman ako!*

Never mind that the writers missed out in including my name in the nominees for Best Director. Never mind that the list of nominees for Best Production did not include my two plays.

Never mind that the audio-visual introduction to my special award only had my picture and nothing else. Never mind that the criteria for nominations were in some hazy fog, and never mind that there were as many questions about the process of judging as there were nominees and winners.

The Aliw Awards remain the only award-giving body to recognize live performance. It certainly is the only award-giving body to include theater on its roster of awards.

It is not that we work in the theater for the eventual awards we shall reap. But recognition, wherever it comes from, is important.

At present, the theater and its workers get recognition only from the immediate response of the audience. Sometimes our work in theater gets appreciated through an article or review in one of the dailies or magazines. But there is nothing like being named as one of the year's best.

During one of my company calls after a performance, I remember distinctly the complaint of one of the actresses. In this production, the assigned stage director had to leave for abroad right after the opening performance. So, the cast was left to fend for themselves, and the actress said, "No one tells me if I'm on the right track. Am I doing right? Where should I improve? Where can I tone down?"

Believe me, all these questions are sincere, all aimed at improving one's self.

Yes, the performing artist needs to be told, that he or she is doing well, or that he or she needs to improve somewhere. In short, the hardworking theater artist also has to be given a pat on the back, or a kick in the butt. And in so many ways, notwithstanding its faults, the Aliw Awards does just that.

Tony Espejo received the Lifetime Achievement award for Theater in the 2006 Aliw Awards. He is the founding president and artistic director of Gantimpala Theater Foundation.

"The God-Stealer" and "The Queen's Jewel" will be restaged in October. For bookings and ticket information, call 8995745 8963503. For sponsorship and outreach tours, call 5280603, 5365860.

SEPTEMBER READS FROM FULLY BOOKED

"How to Walk in High Heels: The Girl's Guide to Everything," by Camilla Morton

This book helps you navigate life with style, from appreciating wine to understanding modern art.

"The Devil and Miss Prym," by Paulo Coelho

A novel that seeks to answer the question that haunts its main protagonist: Are human beings good or evil?

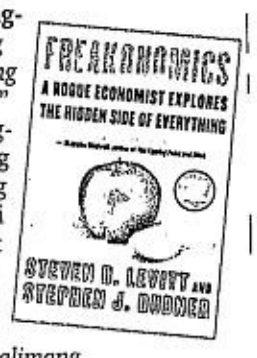
"Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Ever," by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Steven D. Levitt is not a typical economist. He is a much heralded scholar who studies the stuff and riddles of everyday life, and whose conclusions regularly turn conventional wisdom on its head, as in this book.

"Match Me If You Can," by Susan Elizabeth Phillips

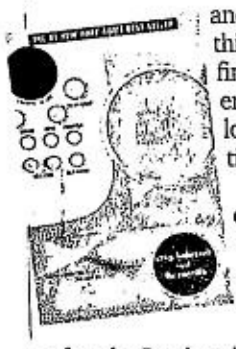
Annabelle Granger has recently inherited her grandmother's matchmaking business. Now she has to land a high-profile, major client, and she's decided on one of Chicago's most eligible bachelors.

"Stainless Longganisa," by Bob Ong



Pagkatapos ng "ABNKKBSNPLAKo?," "Bakit Baliktad Magbasa Ng Libro Ang Mga Pilipino?," "Ang Paboritong Libro Ni Hudas" at "Alamat Ng Gubat," ipinagpapatuloy ni Bob Ong sa librong ito ang kanyang ikalimang pagkakamali—ang magkwento tungkol sa sarili niyang mga libro, bagay na di ginagawa ng mga matitinong manunulat.

"Rich Dad, Poor Dad," by Robert T. Kiyosaki and Sharon L. Lechter



Written with consultant and CPA Sharon L. Lechter, this book lays out personal-finance author and lecturer Robert T. Kiyosaki's philosophy behind his relationship with money.

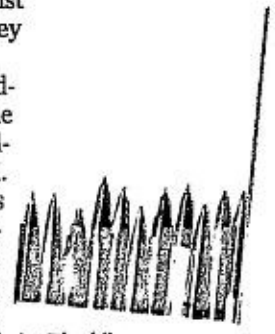
"The Empire of Dragons," by Valerio Massimo Manfredi

Anatolia, 260 AD. The city of Edessa, a Roman outpost, is on its last legs after the Persian siege by the troops of Shapur I. What happens after forms an epic journey through the forests of India, the Himalayan mountains, the deserts of central Asia, all the way to the heart of China.

"He's Just Not That into You," by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo

Based on a popular episode of "Sex and the City," this book educates otherwise smart women on how to tell when a guy just doesn't like them enough, so they can stop wasting time making excuses for a dead-end relationship.

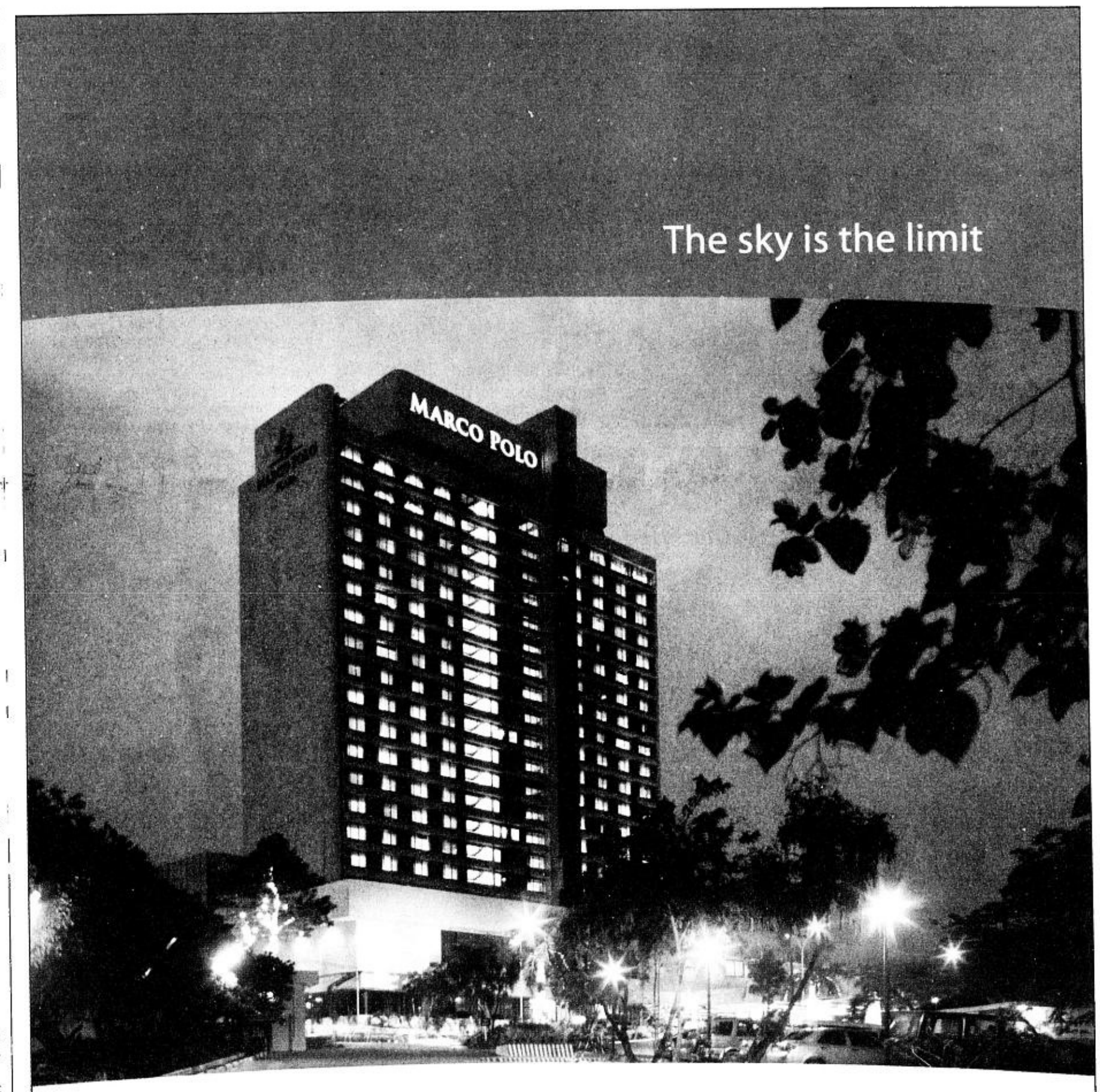
"American Beauty: An A-List Novel," by Zoey Dean



This takes readers behind the scenes of the Hollywood glitterati. The A-List and its bestselling sequels ("Girls on Film," "Blonde Ambition," "Tall Cool One," "Back in Black" and "Some Like It Hot") are full of stories about the fast times of Beverly Hills' beautiful and glamorous crowd.

"The World Is Flat [Updated and Expanded]," by Thomas L. Friedman

This is Thomas L. Friedman's account of the great changes taking place in our time, as lightning-swift advances in technology and communications put people all over the globe in touch as never before. The changes have created an explosion of wealth in India and China, and challenged the rest of us to run even faster just to stay in place.



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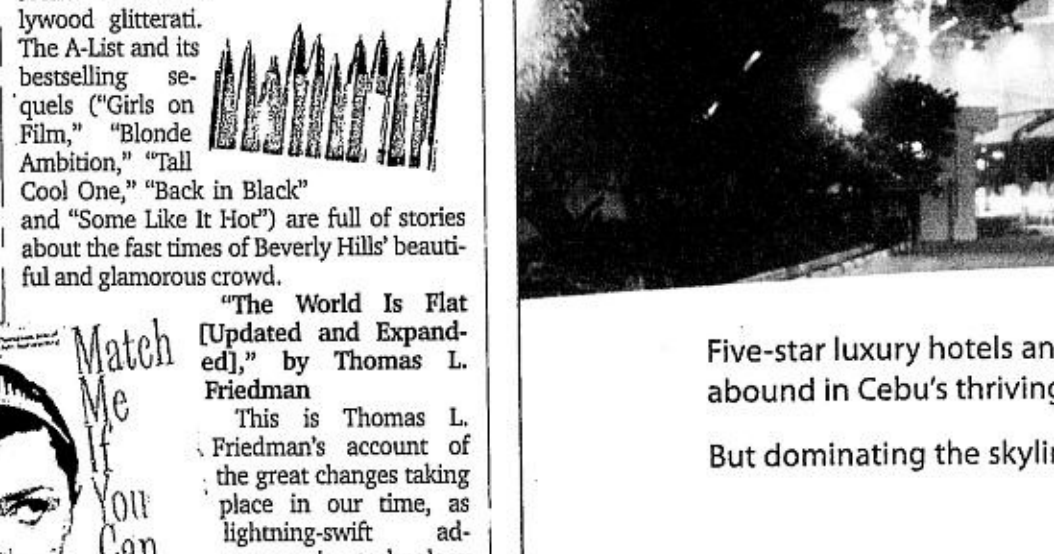
MARCO POLO PLAZA CEBU



Haiku book by Rogelio Mangahas

POET ROGELIO G. MANGAHAS' NEW BOOK, "Gagamba sa Uhay: Kalipunan ng mga Haiku," will be launched by C & E Publishing Inc. and Umpil Sept. 21, 3 p.m., at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman, with former Education Undersecretary Isagani Cruz as guest speaker.

The book has an English translation by SEA-Write awardee Marne L. Kilates and introduction by National Artist for Literature Virgilio S. Almario.

Mangahas was one of the Tungkong Bato or triumvirate with Rio Alma and Lamberto Antonio who spearheaded the modern Filipino poetry movement in the 1960s. He is known for his Palanca award-winning poem, "Mga Duguang Plakard," about the Battle of Mendiola during the First Quarter Storm of 1970. Call 9295713 or 9287298.

Book Club tackles Garland and Palahniuk thrillers

THE POWER BOOK CLUB features two absorbing psychological thrillers for September.

Chuck Palahniuk's "Haunted" is a novel made up of 23 horrifying, hilarious, mind-blowing, stomach-churning tales told by people who have answered an ad headlined "Writer's Retreat: Abandon Your Life for Three Months."

These writers are led to believe that they will leave behind all distractions of "real life" that are keeping them from creating the masterpiece that is in them. They end up in a cavernous and ornate old theater where they are utterly isolated from the outside world—and where heat, power and food are in increasingly short supply. The more desperate the circumstances become, the more extreme the stories they tell and the more devious their machinations become to make themselves the hero of the inevitable play/movie/nonfiction blockbuster that will surely be made from their plight.

"Coma" by Alex Garland is about Carl, a young man brutally assaulted late at night on an underground train by a gang of thugs.

Beaten unconscious, he lies for days in a hospital bed then suddenly appears to make a full recovery. On discharge from hospital, Carl picks up the threads of his daily life, visiting friends, seeing his girlfriend —until he starts to notice strange leaps in his perception of time, distortions in his experience. Is he truly reacting with the outside world, or might he be terribly mistaken?

Book club discussions for "Haunted" will be held on Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m. at Powerbooks SM Megamall (tel. 6352898 to 99); and on "Coma" on Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m. in Powerbooks Greenbelt (7576428 to 29).

Simply register at the customer service counter of any Powerbooks branch and get 10-percent off the featured book. Powercard Plus holders who sign up get 20-percent off. Plus, the first 16 registrants get a free cup of coffee from The Java Man.

Focus on Don DeLillo

DON DELILLO DID NOT START WRITING until he became engrossed with reading to pass time while working as a parking attendant. Thirteen novels later, DeLillo is acclaimed as one of the main figures of literary postmodernism. Younger writers like David Foster Wallace look up to him. He describes DeLillo as a "true prophet of US fiction."

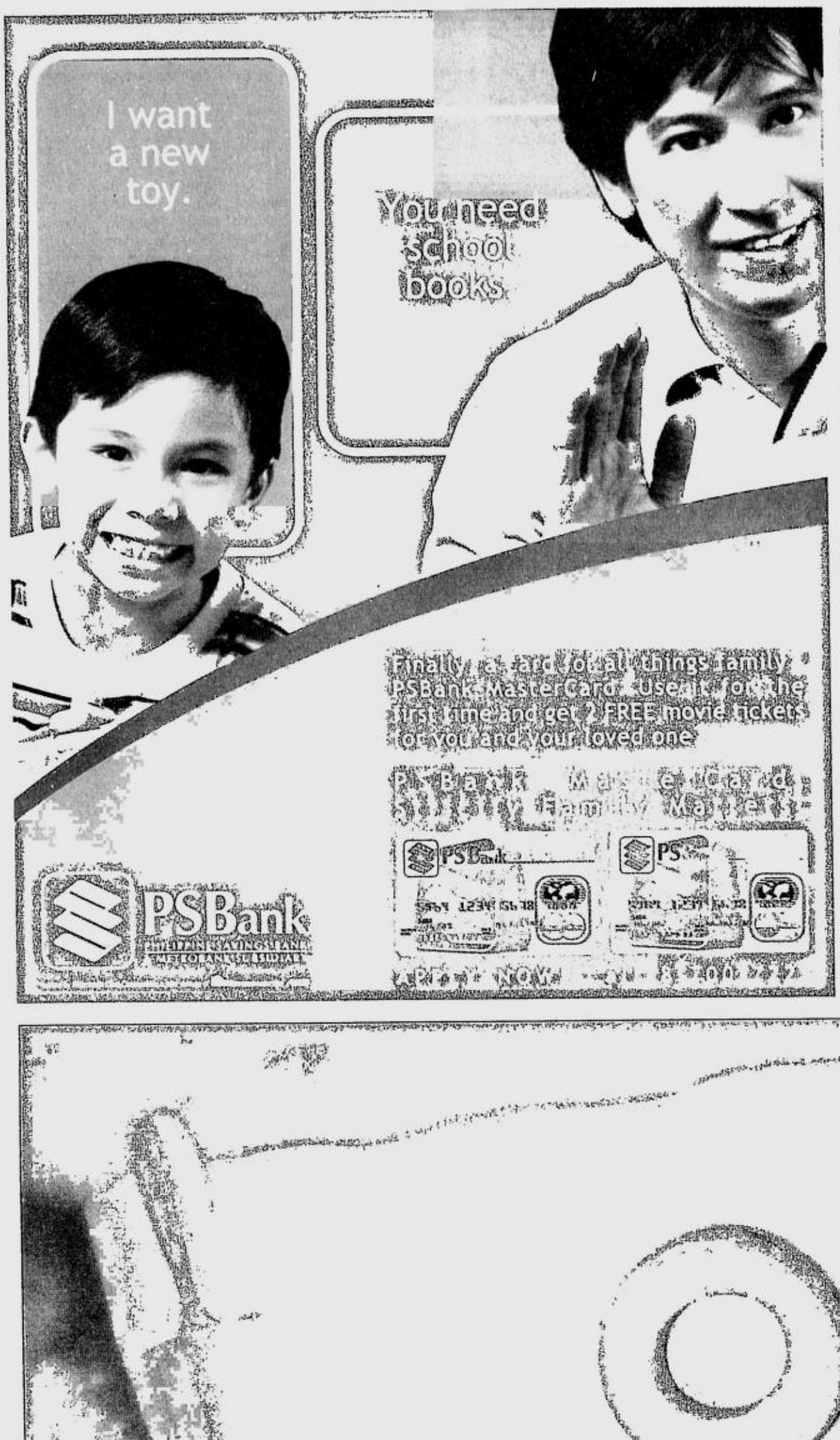
DeLillo obtained his Bachelor's degree from Fordham University in 1958. Although born to Italian parents who emigrated to New York, DeLillo describes his upbringing as thoroughly American. Unlike other Italian-American authors, there are no specific references to the Italian culture in his novels.

Through "White Noise" (1985), DeLillo gained noticeable success. The National Book Award winner tells the story of a college professor named Jack Gladney who one day gets accidentally exposed to a cloud of toxic chemicals which opens to him a stark and frightening understanding of contemporary life. The book was lauded for its take on postmodern themes such as the dissolution of the family, unrestrained consumerism and media saturation.

DeLillo's magnum opus, "Underworld" (1997) has received numerous citations, including the 1999 Jerusalem Prize, the first for an American writer. DeLillo joins other writers like Mario Vargas Llosa, Milan Kundera and V.S. Naipaul who have won the international literary prize given to authors whose work articulate the freedom of the individual in the society. The New York Times has recently named "Underworld" a runner-up for the best work of American fiction of the last 25 years.

DeLillo's books are available at Powerbooks.

Powerbooks has branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428 to 29), SM Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta 3 (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25), Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/ 5243448) and SM Mall of Asia (5560244).



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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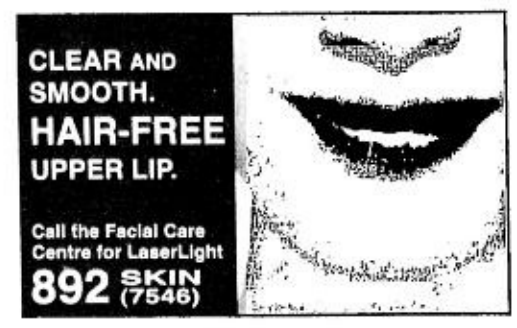


STUNNING SEA CREATURE
Valerie Concepcion is the mortal Elisa, who finds herself in Atlantika and pretends to be a princess. Atlantika is a domed underwater kingdom that is the setting of GMA 7's "grandest biggest" production to date, which starts airing in October. *More stunning character previews on page G4.*

Film ratings system up for revision

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

GUESS WHO'S NOT IN FAVOR OF CENSORship?

Ma. Consoliza "Marissa" Laguardia, chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), that's who.

"I'm all for self-regulation," she told INQUIRER Entertainment.

From outright censorship, Laguardia explained, the movie-TV board moved to classification. And so it can only recommend voluntary deletions.

Most producers comply with the recommendations, she said. An example is "Twilight Dancers," initially rated X, but later declared R-18 after submitting to voluntary cuts.

"That is a good sign," Laguardia noted. "It means the board is recognizing the strides made by the TV and movie industries—they may not be ready for self-regulation, but they're getting there."

Which is precisely how she sees her work.

"The board is here to guide them. We'd like to encourage self-regulation, but it should be clear they can't abuse it in the name of freedom of expression."

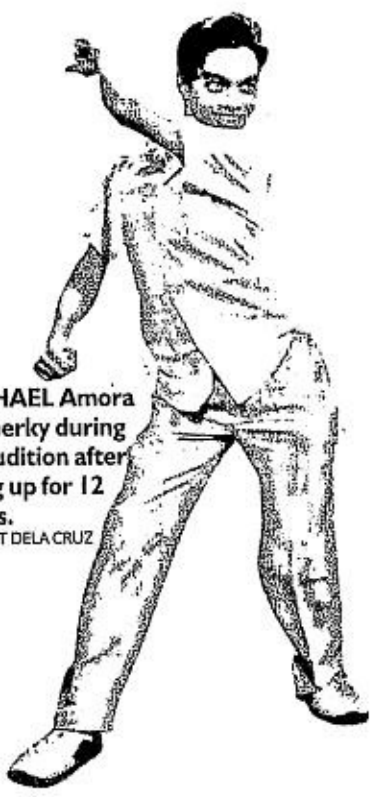
Laguardia insisted that the movie-TV board is still relevant.

"If it were to be abolished, the industry should still put up its own regulatory board, funded and operated by them. Just like in the United States," she said.

Hollywood movies are rated on a "voluntary system" by the Motion Picture Association of America and the National Association of Theater Owners.

The US broadcasting industry, however, is

FILM/ F3



MICHAEL Amora still perky during his audition after lining up for 12 hours.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

More young hopefuls with same dream

By Nini Valera

FROM TAWI-TAWI TO QUEZON CITY, Maria Rodeliza Bergantinos traveled what she hoped would be the road to stardom on Saturday.

As early as 4 a.m., Rodeliza had lined up for the first audition of "Starstruck The Next Level," the reality talent search show that plucked Jennylyn Mercado from obscurity in 2002.

Accompanied by her aunt, Amali Jaafar, and her aunt's 4-month-old baby daughter, Rodeliza was among the first there. Each one in the long queue was hoping for a three-minute "moment" with "Starstruck" producer Mark Soliman and writer Buboy Carreon.

Soliman and Carreon had been tasked to pick out the next "Starstruck" survivors from among 600 youngsters who showed up for the audition—hope visible on their faces, like the numbers pinned to their clothes, which showed how far they were from that "moment."

Rodeliza, number 0015, almost blew her chance by crying as soon as she opened her mouth to introduce herself.

Grandpa's hope

"I thought of my grandfather, who had given me the P5,000 that was supposed to go to his treatment so I could get here to Manila," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in Filipino after her turn at the audition.

Earlier, she performed a haunting ballad that revealed the agreeable timbre of her voice.

"It's not easy to chase this dream," she said.

Rodeliza, 19, traveled six days and five nights on a boat from Barangay Imam Sapie in Tawi-Tawi to Manila in search of her dream. Like most of the young people who auditioned on Saturday, she is poor but believes she is big on talent.

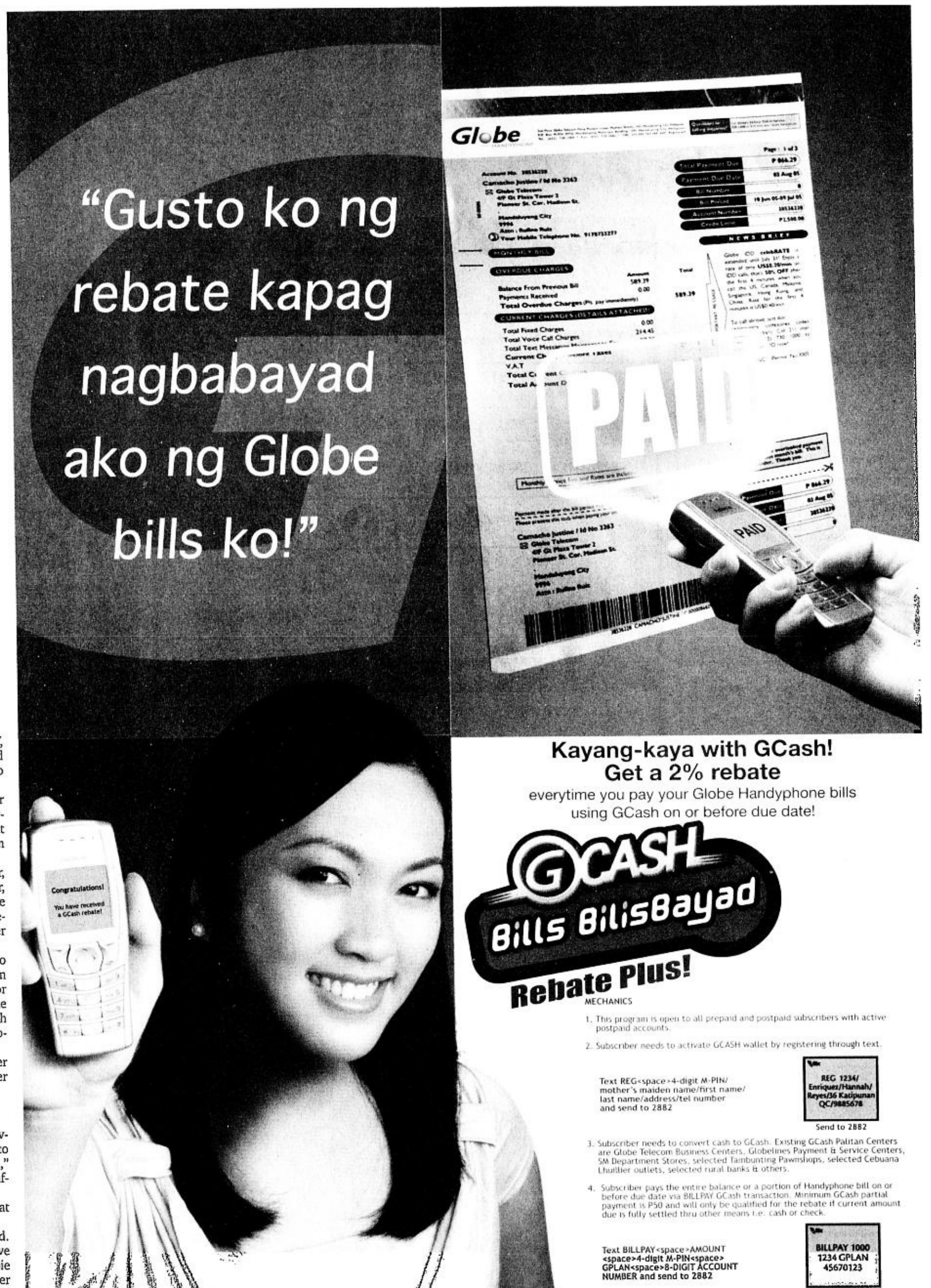
She sees the talent search as the only way out of poverty. "Even water is scarce in our barangay," she said. "Only the rich have wells. The rest of us rely on the well in the school."

Until he fell ill, Rodeliza's grandfather, Musahari Jaafar, 59, a janitor, had carried buckets of water from the school to their house.

"His dream is to see me on TV," said Rodeliza, whose family doesn't own a television set. "GMA 7 is the only network that reaches us in Tawi-Tawi. He loves watching 'Starstruck' (on a neighbor's set), and he thinks he will see me in the show soon."

If she doesn't make it this year, Rodeliza vowed, she would audition again next season.

MORE/ F4



Dupree is a one-man demolition crew

"YOU, ME AND DUPREE" HAS A fun premise: Teacher (**Kate Hudson**) and architect (**Matt Dillon**) get married and start a great life together—until the groom's best friend (**Owen Wilson**) moves in with them, and the bride's father (**Michael Douglas**) makes the groom's life miserable at the office, where he happens to be the big boss.

With these key inputs, the movie shapes up as a fun depiction of the need to grow up, to be your own person, to stand up to bullying bosses and fathers-in-law—all the while not forgetting the virtues of taking time out from the rat race to smell the roses.

The movie's positive prospects are further enhanced by its talented lead actors, who make their roles sizzle and bristle. Viewers have fun watching each other with such intensity and zest.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Unfortunately, directors **Anthony** and **Joe Russo** don't seem to know when to stop piling up the far-out situations, "crazy" conflicts and physical comedy.

Wilson becomes such a horribly inconsiderate houseguest that we wonder why his hosts don't kick him out after his first night with them!

Sure, he's Dillon's best friend, but he's so rude and crude that he quickly overstays even a Siamese twin brothers' welcome.

Wilson's characterization is made freakily idiosyncratic in the hope that viewers will fall in love with him. After all, he's simply a man in his 30s who refuses to grow up and Peter Pan was pretty adorable in a similar character mold, right?

Alas, Wilson's excuses are so far-out that "adorable" they definitely aren't—so, there goes the Peter Pan mystique, crashing to the ground with a bone-crunching thud. What's so lovable about a houseguest who almost burns your house down?!

Also unsuccessful is the movie's attempt to make Wilson cutely pathetic by having him fall in love with a "reserved" woman who turns out to be a slut.

Another weak element in the movie is the manipulative boss and father-in-law played by Douglas. He's made to come off as such a vicious bully that the "humor" in his assaults on his defenseless son-in-law quickly sours.

It's a good thing the Hudson and Dillon keep their characters on even keel. They provide the movie with the solid fulcrum it needs to survive the excesses perpetrated by Wilson and Douglas.

Toward the end, however, things go from bad to worse as the directors take the film's plot developments much too far for comfort.

They even have Wilson imparting screwy "wisdom" to some schoolkids—and later finally finding his place in the sun as a hit motivation workshop guru!

It's fun to dream a little, but *this* is a spaced-out fantasy. Down, boys.

Feedback

FROM **Paul R. Mortel** of Marikina City: "I would like to request the management of IBC-TV Channel 13 to please air the documentary US President John F. Kennedy, 'Years of Lightning, Days of Drums' on Nov. 22, the 43rd anniversary of Kennedy's assassination. The documentary was narrated by **Gregory Peck**..."

'Kinky Boots'

IN THE TRADITION of "The Full Monty" comes "Kinky Boots," a British comedy about two outcasts and dreamers who finally figure out how to stand up for themselves—in thigh-high leather stiletto boots.

Inspired by a true story, the film stars **Joel Edgerton** as a young Englishman who inherits his father's failing shoe factory, and **Chiwetel Ejiofer** as Lola, the feisty female impersonator who turns the Englishman and the entire luckless factory's world inside out on its way—to the catwalks of Milan! "Kinky Boots" will be shown exclusively at Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3.

'Pedro Penduko'

ABS-CBN has announced the start of production for the most lavish series on "Komiks" to date: "Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko." **Matt Evans** plays the prized title role, and he will be joined by **Gloria Romero**, **Bembol Roco**, **TJ Trinidad**, **Kitkat** and **Deejay Durano**, and with **Melissa Ricks** and **Olyn Maimban** as Pedro Penduko's two love interests. **Agot Isidro** and **Albert Martinez** play special roles in the series directed by **Jerome Pobocan**, **Don Santos** and **Trina Dayrit**.

MMTA
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1 (DOLBY) EGASAI (FILM FESTIVAL)
2 (DOLBY) SCOOP
3 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE / THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 (DOLBY) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
PREMIERE
YOU, ME AND DUPREE
(DOLBY) CRANK

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2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 THE WICKER MAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEAR PRADA
4 BINIBINING K

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNATY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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1 (DOLBY) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE / DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE / MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) SCOOP
4 (DOLBY) CRANK

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7269180
3 BINIBINING K
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE WICKER MAN
5 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 8433994
1 OBSESSION
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE
4 RESERVED

THEATRES
Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 (DTS) BINIBINING K
4 STAY ALIVE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5271
1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 LITTLE MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TAMARA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE
4 (DTS) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) THE WICKER MAN
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE / YOU ME & DUPREE
3 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
4 (GOLD DTS) JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
5 (GOLD DOLBY) SCOOP
6 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 (GOLD DOLBY) CRANK
8 BINIBINING K
9 ETERNITY / PENGUIN-PENGUIN
10 YOU ARE THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BINIBINING K
2 ETERNITY
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE

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(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
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2 YOU ARE THE ONE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SIX
2 STORMBREAKER

Blue Wave MARIKINA
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2 (DOLBY) BINIBINING K
3 (DOLBY) JON TUCKER MUST DIE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) PEPPER LETTER FROM HELL
2 NIGHT JOB
3 BABY DOLL
4 (DTS) KUBRADOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 KAKAIBANG KARISMA
3 (DTS) WOLF CREEK
4 WILD SIDE
5 MIAMI VICE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 BINIBINING K
4 SCOOP
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 MIAMI VICE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
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SCOOP 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	YOU, ME & DUPREE 7:00 / 9:20	MONSTER HOUSE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	THE WICKER MAN 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	BINIBINING K 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

1 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10	2 CRANK 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25	3 THE WICKER MAN 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
4 BINIBINING K 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00	5 AMERICAN DREAMZ 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Sept 18, Monday NCAA FINALS Game 1 — 2pm PCU vs SSC-R Jrs / 4pm PCU vs SBC Srs
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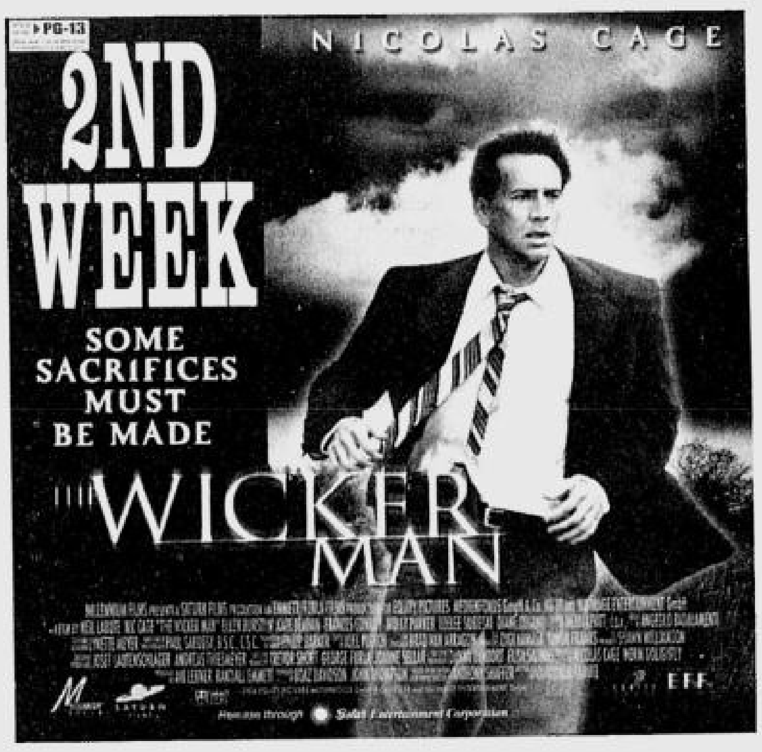

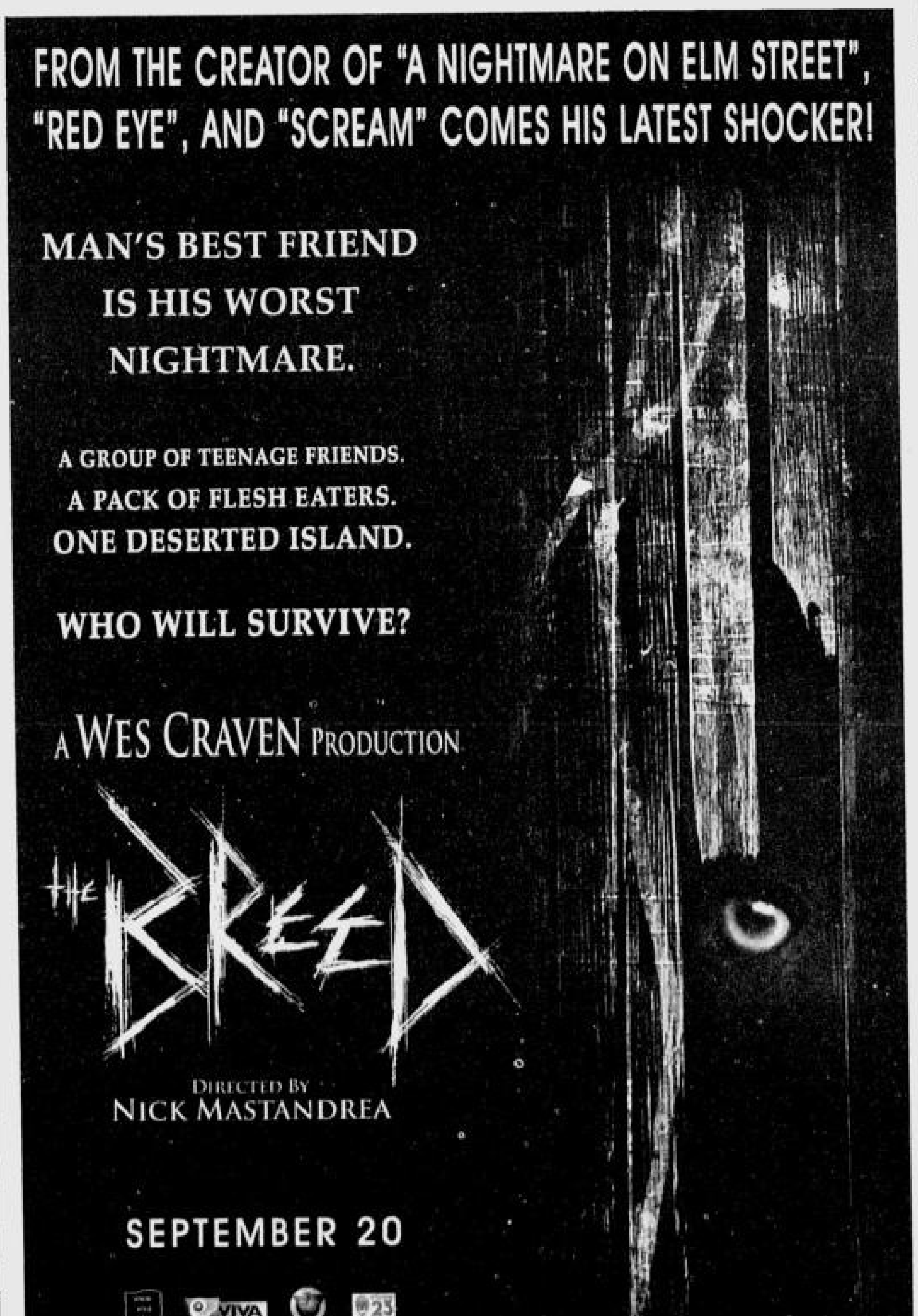

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"JACKMAN IS IN FULL CARY GRANT MODE. JOHANSSON IS LUMINOUS!"
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Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER

"THERE ARE PLENTY OF OLD-SCHOOL MURDER-MYSTERY MOMENTS TO KEEP YOU GUESSING."
Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST

KC with Sharon at the preem

KIKO, Frankie and Miel

Some things Mega has to do

AT THE PREMIERE OF "PENGUIN, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?" Sharon Cuneta was asked yet again why she did the Tagalog narration of the Oscar-winning documentary. And yet again, she said, "It's a wonderful, touching story. I had to do it for my children and the Filipino moviegoers." She was with her whole family at the SM Megamall screening.

MIRIAM Quiambao

Celebs helping kids

LEGAZPI CITY—Former beauty queen and television host Miriam Quiambao recently visited children displaced by the Mayon Volcano eruption in shelters here in Albay and read story books to them.

Quiambao, runner-up in the Miss Universe 1999 tilt, is an advocate of World Vision, a child-focused relief and development international organization.

World Vision has helped more than 200,000 children, according to WV-Philippines. Kris Aquino has over 50 sponsored children. Other participating celebs are Karen Davila, WV's main ambassador of goodwill in the country; Christian Bautista, Lynn Sherman and Kristine Bersola. Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Expensive smoke

TORONTO—Sean Penn flouted no-smoking laws this week at the Toronto film festival but a hotel is paying the price.

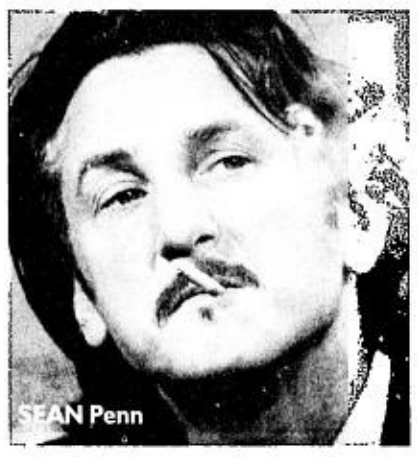
RUSHES

Oscar-winning Penn lit up during a press conference for his new film, "All the King's Men," at the downtown Toronto Sutton Place Hotel. That was in violation of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which bans smoking in all enclosed spaces that are open to the public.

Christopher Ashby, spokesman for the Sutton Place, confirmed on Friday that the hotel has been slapped with fines for allowing Penn to smoke. The standard penalties would be C$605 (US$540).

Asked why hotel staff did not inform Penn of the no-smoking rules, Ashby said: "It was a private event. Our staff were not present in the room."

Other celebs attending the festival have been spotted puffing away in public spaces, but Penn may have been singled out because photographic evidence of his misbehavior was splashed across newspaper pages and TV screens. *Reuters*



SEAN Penn

CYNTHIA Nixon

Miranda & Eleanor

CYNTHIA Nixon—Miranda Hobbes to millions of "Sex And the City" fanatics—is playing Eleanor Roosevelt in HBO's "Warm Springs," premiering Oct. 3, 10 p.m. Quite a stretch. But isn't she lovely?

Back to the scene

NEW YORK—Actor Russell Crowe went back on Friday to the court where he pleaded guilty last year to hitting a hotel clerk with a telephone, this time as an actor rather than the defendant.

The New Zealand native was at Manhattan Criminal Court filming the upcoming movie "American Gangster." Crowe, the star of such movies as "A Beautiful Mind" and "Gladiator," hit a clerk with a telephone in June 2005 at a trendy SoHo hotel. The Oscar-winning actor pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges, and was fined $160 in November and told to stay out of trouble and avoid arrest for a year. *Reuters*

Mowelfund NY benefit a wild success

By Boots Anson Roa
Contributor

SUPERSTAR NORA AUNOR WOWED THE Filipino-American audience at Columbia University's Roone Arledge auditorium in Manhattan, New York, in a recent benefit show for the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation Inc. (Mowelfund), an institution founded by former President Joseph Estrada in 1974.

Ate Guy shared the stage with Willie Nepomuceno, Anthony Castelo, Bernardo Bernardo, Lloyd Umali, Jennifer Bautista and locals Ciello, Bessie Alejandro and rock bands Kayumanggi, Chapter 2, Bleud Band and Rubber Band.

More intense

Dubbed "Showbiz Festival 2006," the event revealed a truly seasoned Nora—more intense as a performer, a charismatic singer-actress whose range continues to expand.

Willie Nep, with his inimitable impersonations of controversial personalities like Dolphy, FPJ, FVR, Erap and even Gringo Honasan, kept the audience in stitches.

So did the compleat stand-up performer Bernardo Bernardo, whose act is fast drawing attention in the California area. Anthony Castelo, now an LA resident, rendered well-loved OPM classics.

Advocacy

This writer was honored to have been invited to entertain the New York crowd and pitch for our advocacy—the welfare benefits of our marginalized workers who comprise Mowelfund. The producers reciprocated our offer to waive our regular talent fee by making Mowelfund its beneficiary. The 50 percent subsidy cut that the foundation has experienced since 2002 has compelled its board and management to cut costs and raise funds continuously.

My husband Pete's and my otherwise personal visits to family in Metro Washington DC and the Bay area in California turned out to be fundraising opportunities for Mowelfund, thanks to those who had heard about the foundation's plight.

BOOTS Anson-Roa

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MR. ARTHUR TIZON OF NEW YORK

WILLIE Nepomuceno

POSTER for the benefit show

Impromptu

Our efforts paid off. Mother Lily Monteverde gave us a DVD copy of "Blue Moon," which we showed impromptu at the Manila Café in Springfield, Virginia.

From the San Francisco area, Pio and Fe Odena, my siblings Nonoy and Monching Anson with their respective spouses Tina and Susan and my sister Vicky and her husband Tim White patiently pitched for Mowelfund with their friends and colleagues.

The event is the first of an annual series spearheaded by Fil-Am business and community leaders like Nel Castelvi of Perlas ng Silangan restaurant in Queens' Borough, John Ynayan of the Fil-Am Broadsheet Newstar, Ed Sunico of EdSun Entertainment and famed Pinoy animator Geirry Garccia who has taken Metro New York by storm.

AN INTENSE Nora Aunor wows the Fil-Am audience in Manhattan, New York.

Film ratings system...

From page F1

regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, an independent government agency, directly responsible to Congress.

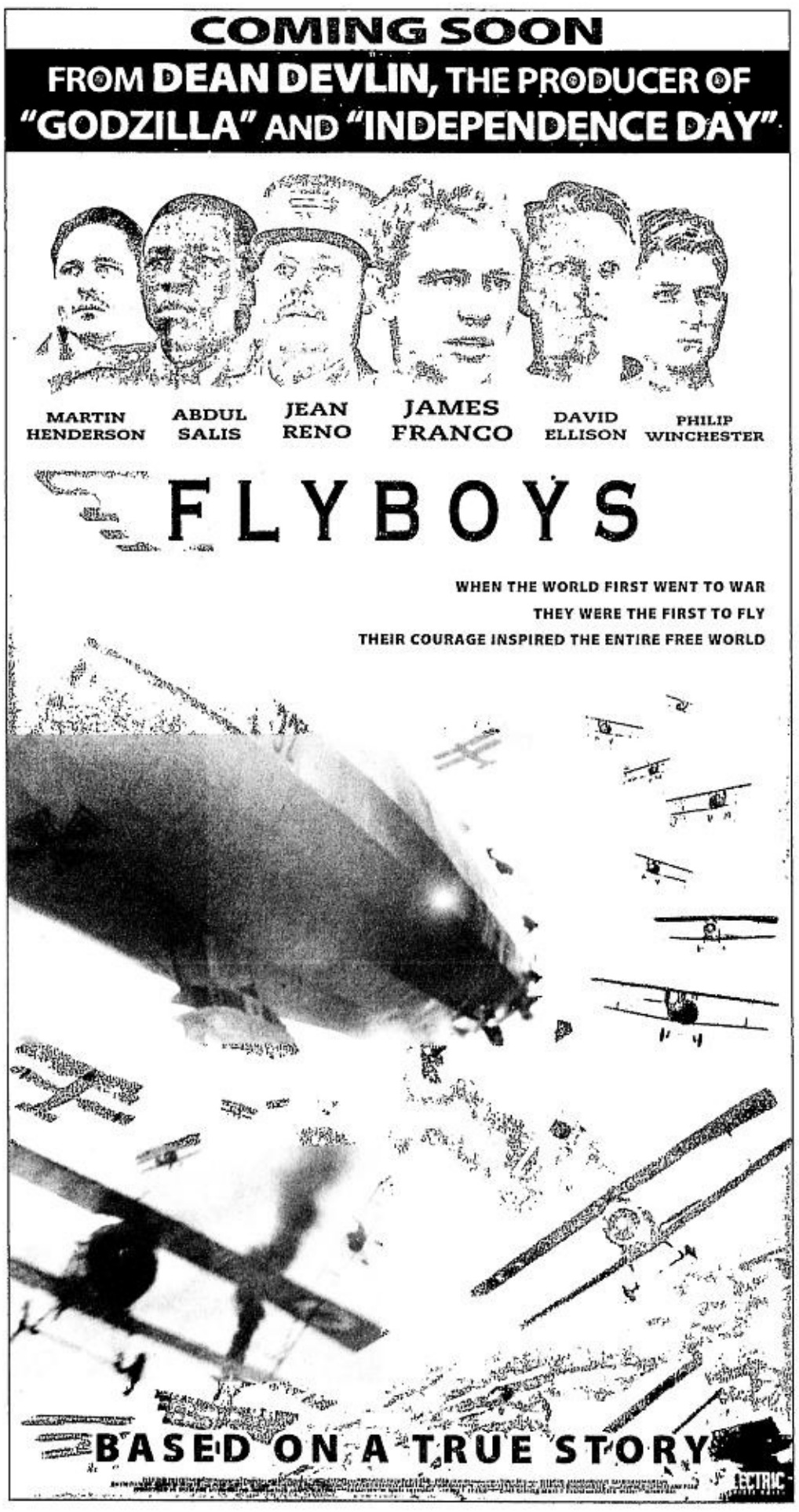
Explaining the MTRCB's job, Laguardia said, "We monitor. I understand that TV networks and movie producers need to push the envelope, but they should also be sensitive to the audience's welfare."

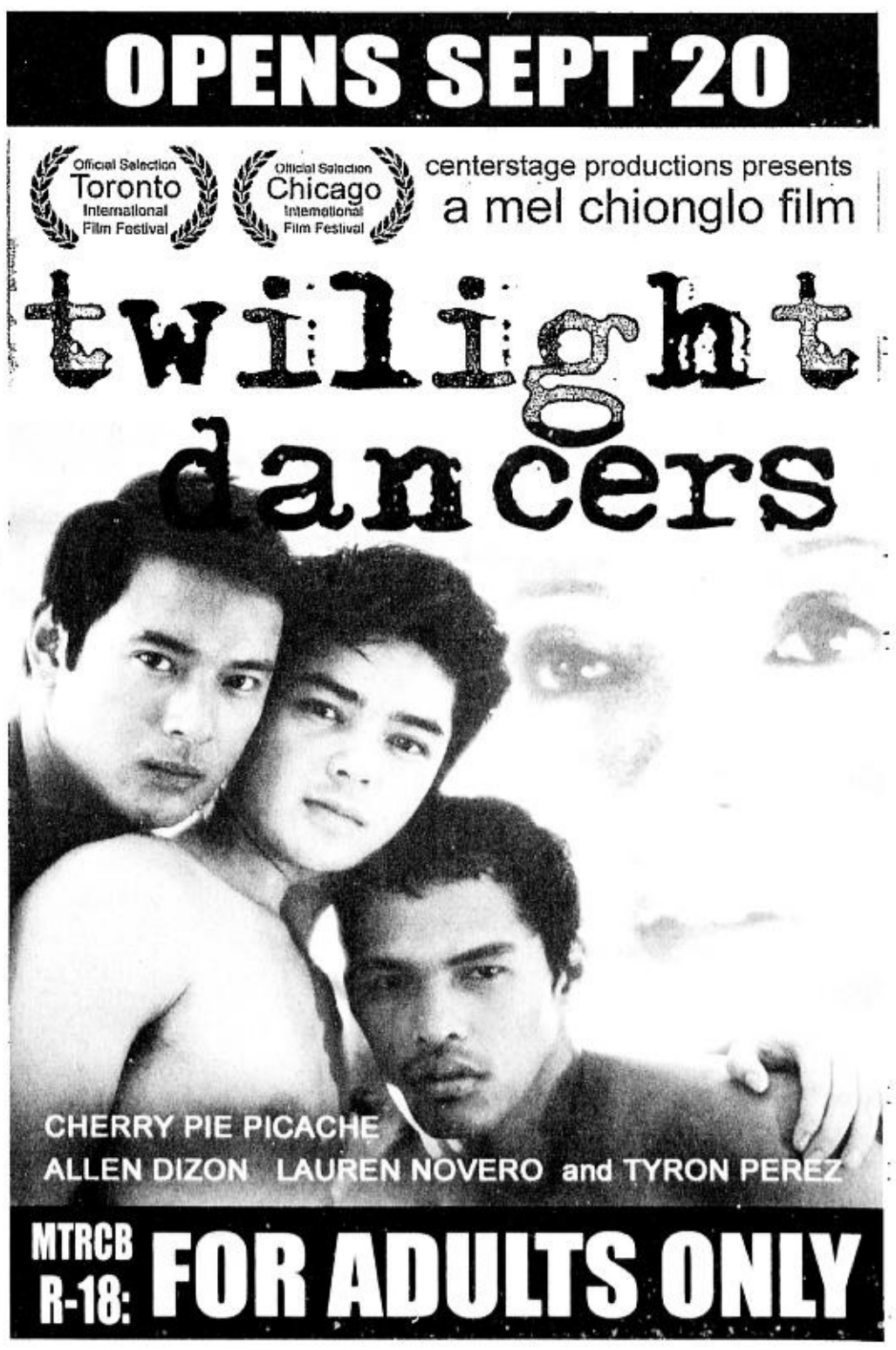
She confirmed that the board is considering a revision of the movie classification system—specifically, changing R-13 to R-15, as "middle ground for films that aren't as harsh as R-18, but are too mature for R-13."

Laguardia clarified: "This is a complex issue. I have assigned a committee to examine all the angles. We need to listen to all sides—conservatives, liberals, the producers, the artists..."

She sees her function as a balancing act. "We have to look at all the pros and cons. In our last meeting, the board invited psychologists Randy Dellosa and Dido Villasor, to seek expert opinion on the effects of sex and violence on children."

The committee studying the classification system is composed of lawyers Zosimo Alegre (chair) and Paulino Cases, Lucy Orense, Betty Molina and Ed Morada.





"1,001 jokes ang gusto ko ma-text sa P15 lang."

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basta ikaw! ang lakas mo sa Globe

THREE minutes to show what they've got—and they made every second count.

MARIA Rodeliza from Tawi-Tawi

RESTING tired feet in the shade.

More young hopefuls . . .

From page F1

Quirky dance

Just as starstruck was Michael Amora, 17, number 007, whose quirky moves in a dance routine had caught the screeners' eye.

"No, I am not gay," he told INQUIRER Entertainment in Filipino after his turn. "I just developed my own style of dancing."

Like Rodeliza, Michael said winning the search could be his family's escape from poverty.

"I only have enough money for transportation today," he admitted (he lives in Marikina). "This is a risk for me, but it's one that I have to take."

He was in line as early as 2 a.m., he said, but sleep was the farthest thing on his mind.

At about 2 p.m., the screeners still had to see about 400 hopefuls.

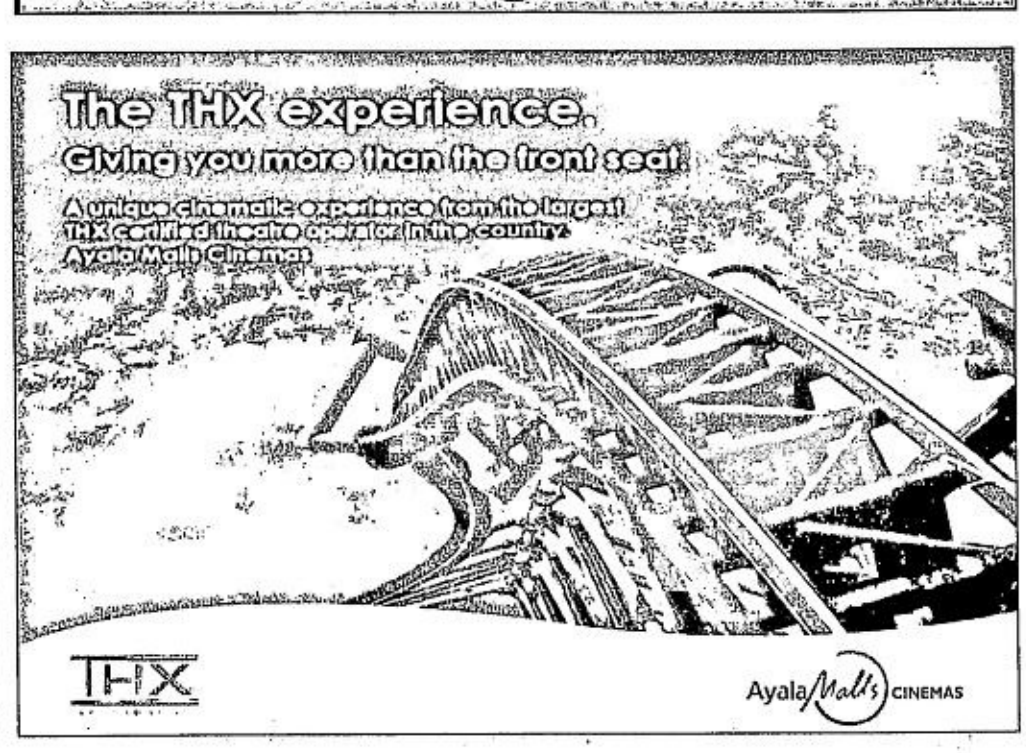
"We're used to this," said Carreon, a two-year veteran of the search. "We could tell straight away who would be a survivor (the term used for a 'Starstruck' finalist)."

Picking out the winner—or ultimate survivor—is another challenge.

"Usually, those who make it to the final leg of the show shine during the workshops," Carreon said. "It's too early to tell if there's another Jennylyn Mercado in the crowd, or another Marky Cielo."

("Starstruck" auditions will be held weekends in Manila, Cebu, Davao and Iloilo until Nov. 4.)

HEAT, sweat, nerves—small price to pay if the effort pays off. PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ



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ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback:
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VALUE FOR MONEY—AND CHARITY. "Venta5" team Boots Anson-Roa (center), and (from left) Adrienne Sarmiento, Heidi Santos, Raffy Ruiz, Patricia Bermudez-Hizon, Karen Agustin, Magoo Marjon, Claudine Trillo and Chal Lontoc.

Real-time shopping on ABC 5

IT'S CALLED "VENTA5" (READ AS "VENTA cinco") and airs on ABC 5.

The country's first live and interactive TV home shopping show premiered nationwide on Sept. 8, with a 10 a.m. time slot, now seen Mondays through Saturdays.

The centerpiece? Exclusive retail deals and unmatched value offers.

The network has upped the ante on "infomercials' with "wow" products and "but wait" offers—by setting the broadcast live, in real time.

A slew of hosts

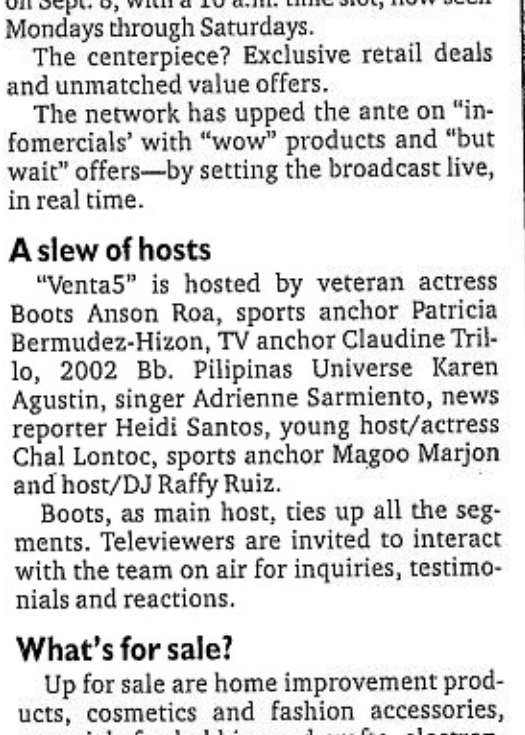
"Venta5" is hosted by veteran actress Boots Anson Roa, sports anchor Patricia Bermudez-Hizon, TV anchor Claudine Trillo, 2002 Bb. Pilipinas Universe Karen Agustin, singer Adrienne Sarmiento, news reporter Heidi Santos, young host/actress Chal Lontoc, sports anchor Magoo Marjon and host/DJ Raffy Ruiz.

Boots, as main host, ties up all the segments. Televiewers are invited to interact with the team on air for inquiries, testimonials and reactions.

What's for sale?

Up for sale are home improvement products, cosmetics and fashion accessories, materials for hobbies and crafts, electronics, gadgets and car accessories and fitness and health equipment. "Venta5" also seeks to promote Filipino inventions.

Plus, as its advocacy, the program donates P5 for every sale to a chosen charity.



Director Spike Lee AP

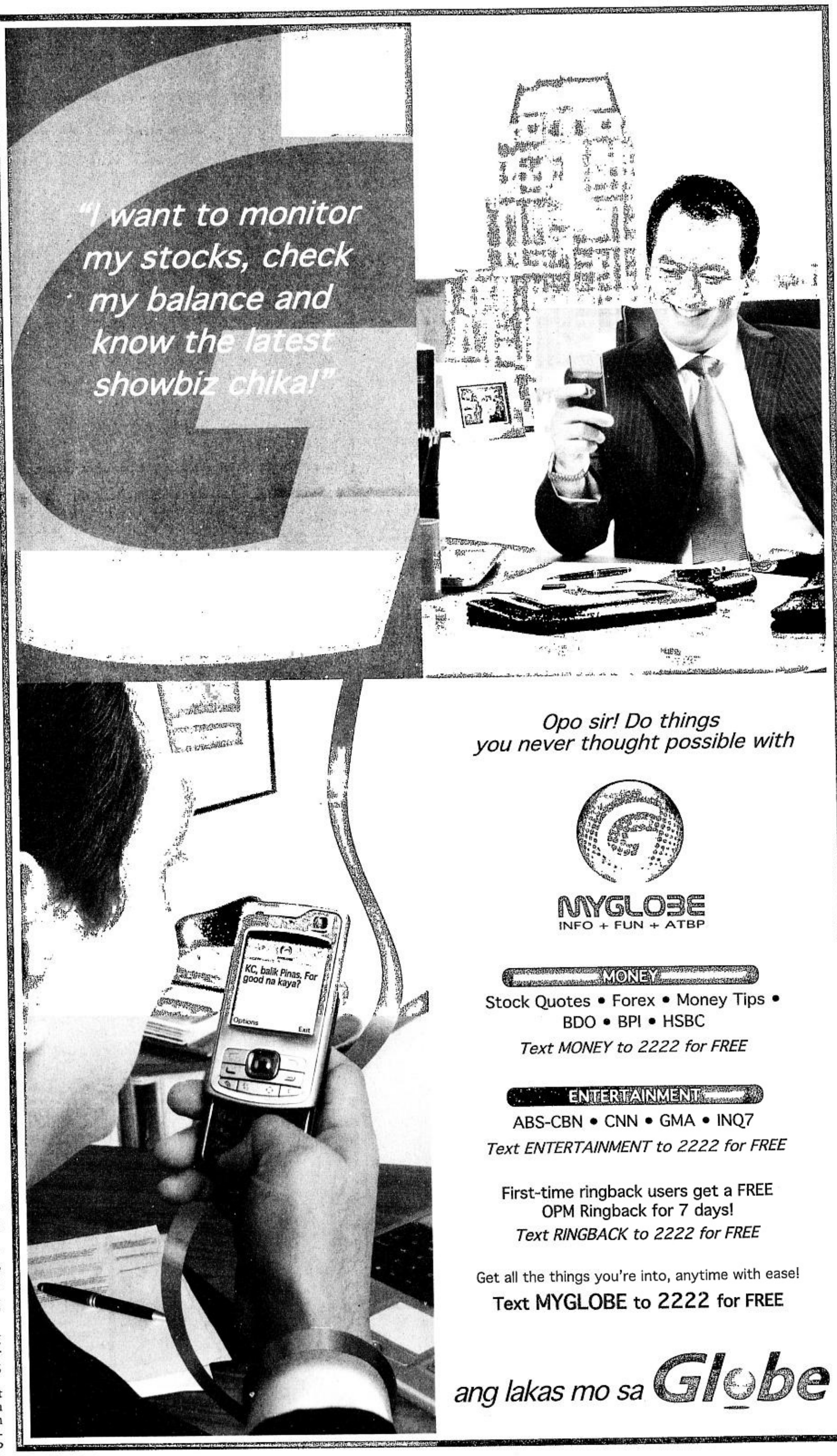
Spike pricks George Bush

TORONTO—AMERICAN FILMMAKER SPIKE Lee continued to berate US President George W. Bush at the Toronto Film Festival over Washington's response to Hurricane Katrina, ahead of US mid-term elections in November.

"This is the worst president in the history of the United States of America. He's taken us to hell in a handbag. Even his fellow Republicans are trying to move away [from him]," Lee said.

"The mid-term elections are coming up. I hope people finally wake up and don't go for okey doke again, get hoodwinked, led astray, run amok or hornswaggled," he said.

Two weeks earlier, Lee blasted President Bush in Venice where his film about the storm fallout, "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts" won an award for best documentary. *AFP*



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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE WICKER MAN • THX
12:00 2:20 4:40

2 RESERVED
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

4 CRANK
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

5 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 BINIBINING K
12:30 2:40 4:50

7 SCOOP
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

8 MONSTER HOUSE
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

9 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CRANK
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE 11:40 1:40 3:40
THE WICKER MAN 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 MONSTER HOUSE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

4 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 BINIBINING K
2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

7 SCOOP
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

3 THE WICKER MAN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

4 SCOOP
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

6 CRANK
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 MONSTER HOUSE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00

8 RESERVE

NOVALICHES

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576 PIONEER 687-0576

1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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Chev Chelios is about to begin his morning with an unexpected wake-up call. Groggy, practically unable to move and with a heart that's barely beating, he hears the voice of thug Ricky Verona, who reveals Chev has been prisoned in his sleep and only has an hour to live.

As it turns out, Chev is a hit man who freelances for a major West Coast syndicate. A run of the mill job the night before instead went awry, he let his target slip away in an effort to quit professional killing and start a new life with his girlfriend Eve.

Now, Chev must keep moving to stay alive; the only way to prolong the poison from stopping his heart is to keep his adrenaline flowing. As the clock ticks, Chelios cuts a swath through the streets of Los Angeles, wreaking havoc on those who dare stand in his way. He must rescue Eve from danger, stay two steps ahead of his nemeses and search for an antidote to save his own life.

MTRCB Rating: R-13

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STAY ALIVE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

1 MIAMI VICE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 BINIBINING K

DASMARINAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

1 CRANK
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188 STARMILLS (045) 875-1921 (045) 981-5270

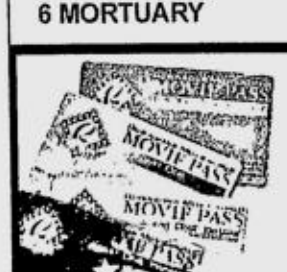
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CRANK
3 BINIBINING K
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKE SON A PLANE
6 CRANK

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 338-8070

1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 KISS KISS BANG BANG
5 MIAMI VICE
6 MORTUARY

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 MORTUARY



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ANT BULLY, IN FULL IMAX 3D
2:00PM Admission Price- P300
SUPERMAN RETURNS
10:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 CRANK
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA/ WICKER MAN
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 SCOOP
5 MONSTER HOUSE/ PENGUIN, PENGUIN
6 WWE UNFORGIVEN
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YOU ARE THE ONE
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1 CRANK
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 CRANK
7 WICKER MAN
8 WWE UNFORGIVEN
9 SCOOP
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 SCOOP
6 WICKER MAN
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 ETERNITY
9 CRANK
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 BINIBINING K

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 ETERNITY
7 CRANK
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
11 BINIBINING K
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 CRANK
2 WICKER MAN
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 BINIBINING K
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 ETERNITY
9 LITTLE MAN
10 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 BINIBINING K
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 CRANK
2 SCOOP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 WICKER MAN
6 ETERNITY
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 BINIBINING K

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 SCOOP
3 WICKER MAN
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 CRANK
7 BINIBINING K
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4232201-04
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 WICKER MAN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 WICKER MAN

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 BINIBINING K
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 CRANK
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 ETERNITY
8 MONSTER HOUSE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 BINIBINING K
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 CRANK
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 BINIBINING K
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

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1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 BINIBINING K
4 CRANK

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1 BINIBINING K
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CRANK
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
5 BINIBINING K
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 STAY ALIVE
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 CRANK
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 STORMBREAKER
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

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MYMP
NOVEMBER 4, 2006
SM NORTH EDSA
CINEMA 7 • 9:00PM

RIVERMAYA
NOVEMBER 18, 2006
SM MEGAMALL
CINEMA 10 • 9:00PM

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Mayo's sec

MAYONNAISE, A ROCK/POP-PUN released its second album, "P 'Yun?," which carries the song "Par

The band is a product of Red Ho 2004, where over 3,000 bands cor month tilt across the country.

Mayo's first album, released ir the hit song "Jopay."

Silver series

Viva Records has released "The special limited edition set of 12 al the works of some of Viva's best company started in 1981.

Among the singers in the ser Cuneta, Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Freestyle, Lani Misalucha, Ogie Alcasid and Janno Gibbs.

The albums sell for P150 each in music outlets nationwide.

'Back to Basics'

Pop icon Christina Aguilera has released her third album, "Back to Basics," a modern take on vintage jazz, soul and blues from the '20s, '30s and '40s.

The album, under Sony BMG Music, includes 22 new songs featuring the upbeat "Ain't No Other Man."

"This is a concept album that follows a bold, set vision," said Aguilera. "The touchstones are Billie Holiday, Otis Redding, Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald... what I used to call my 'fun music' when I was a little girl."

'Paris' the album

Paris Hilton, celebrity heiress and controversial icon, has come out with her first-ever record titled "Paris" under Warner Music. Among the songs in the album are "Stars are Blind," "Turn It Up," "I Want You" and "Nothing in this World."

Those who purchase the album are entitled to free limited edition perfume samples from Paris Hilton.

'A Public Affair'

Jessica Simpson recently launched her fifth solo album "A Public Affair," which features the dance-pop smash of the same title.

The music video for the first single was directed by Brett Ratner of "X-Men" fame, with a star-studded cast Eva Longoria, Christina Applegate, Christina Milian, Maria Menounos, Andy Dick and Ryan Seacrest.

Pink Floyd patchwork

LONDON—THE FORMER home of Pink Floyd founder Syd Barrett, who died in July, has attracted huge interest from potential buyers undeterred by the reclusive singer's patchy home improvement efforts. Dozens of people have viewed the 1930s house, which in the delicate words of the estate agent "provides an excellent opportunity for sympathetic improvement and updating."

The walls are painted a patchwork of pink, orange, brown, blue, turquoise and lavender while cheap wooden shelves cling precariously to the walls.

40 viewings

Barrett's decorating has done little to deter people from taking a look, with 40 viewings last Saturday alone.

"He was an icon, so inevitably there's going to be a lot more interest," said Lisa Freeman-Bassett, of Cheffins, the estate agent and auctioneer handling the 300,000-pound ($562,000) sale.

Barrett lived a solitary life at the house after dropping out of Pink Floyd in 1968 after a spell of erratic behavior linked to his use of psychedelic drugs. He retreated from the public eye, refusing to speak to the fans and journalists who regularly paid visits. He passed his time painting, writing art history and gardening.

Not typical

With its tidy lawns, garden shed, and blue front door, the two-storey home is not the archetypal rock star mansion.

His sister, Rosemary Breen said, "He put his stamp on the house with frequent redecoration," she wrote in notes to auction company the sale. "He slept in all the bedrooms, deciding which one as the mood took him." *Reuters*

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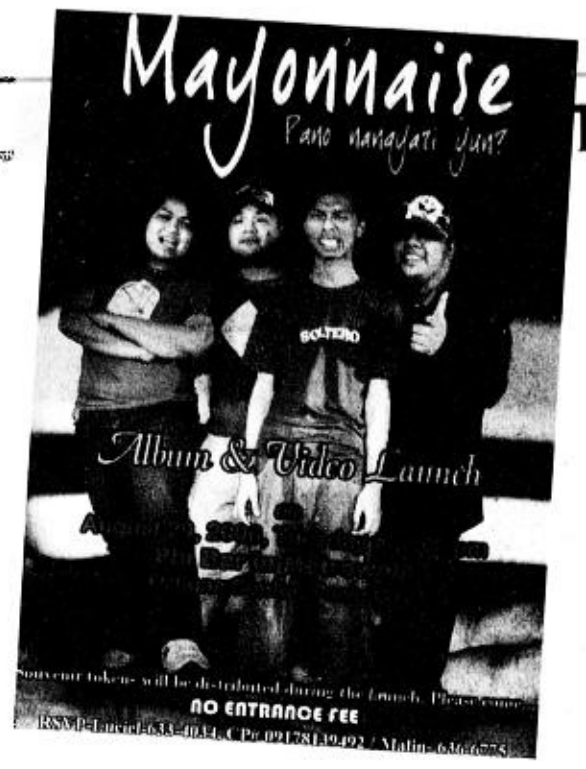

SPIN CITY

"THE SILVER Series" (left); and Jessica Simpson (right)

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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MONSTER HOUSE G 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00	YOU ME AND DUPREE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	SCOOP PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25
DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	CRANK R13 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE PG13 2:10,4:10,6:10,8:10

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CINEMA 1 WICKER MAN / DEVIL WEARS PRADA 10:50, 1:10, 3:25 // 6:20, 8:50 PG-13
CINEMA 2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE 10:50, 1:10, 3:30 5:50, 8:10, 10:25 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CRANK 11:00, 1:20, 3:40 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 4 SCOOP 11:00, 1:15, 3:35 5:55, 8:15, 10:35 PG13
CINEMA 5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 11:05, 1:25, 3:40 5:55, 8:10, 10:30 PG-13
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OCT. 07, 2006	AKAFELLAS	8:30 PM
OCT. 13, 2006	GENEVA C., AIZA S., TRUEFAITH, JAY-R	8:00 PM
EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO : CLASSICO	8:00PM
SEPT. 14,21, 28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
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AND THE WOMAN HE LOVES!
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JASON STATHAM
CRANK
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VIVA

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 EIGA SAI (JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL)
TWILIGHT SAMURAI (PG-13) 2:00PM
LAUGHING FROG (R-13) 5:00PM
BRIGHT FUTURE (PG-13) 8:00PM
2 SCOOP MTRCB PG-13 12.10, 2.30, 4.50, 7:10, 9:30
3 MONSTER HOUSE MTRCB GP 1.00, 3.15, 5.30
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA MTRCB PG-13 7.30, 10.00
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE MTRCB: PG-13 1.00, 3.15, 5.30, 7:45, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE YOU, ME AND DUPREE / CRANK MTRCB PG-13 12.00, 2.30, 5.00 MTRCB R-13 7.20, 9.30
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1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40 PG-13
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 11:00
2 MONSTER HOUSE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25 G
YOU, ME & DUPREE 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3 SCOOP 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 PG-13
4 CRANK 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

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THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CRANK	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE WICKER MAN	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SCOOP		2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CRANK GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS		2 SCOOP	
	3 CRANK	4 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	5 YOU, ME & DUPREE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MONSTER HOUSE	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 CRANK	4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 CRANK		2 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	
	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	

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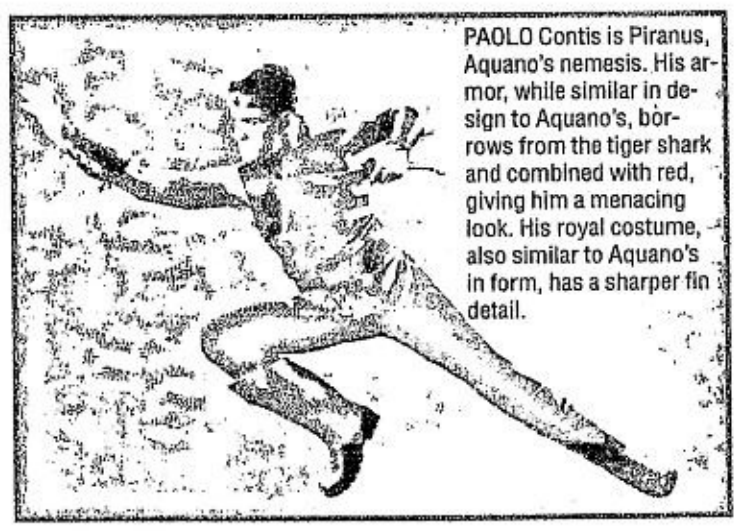
IN OCTOBER, GMA 7 brings televiewers to the very heart of the ocean—to Atlantika, a domed underwater domain inhabited by creatures that look very much like their human counterparts, except for their webbed hands and outfits.

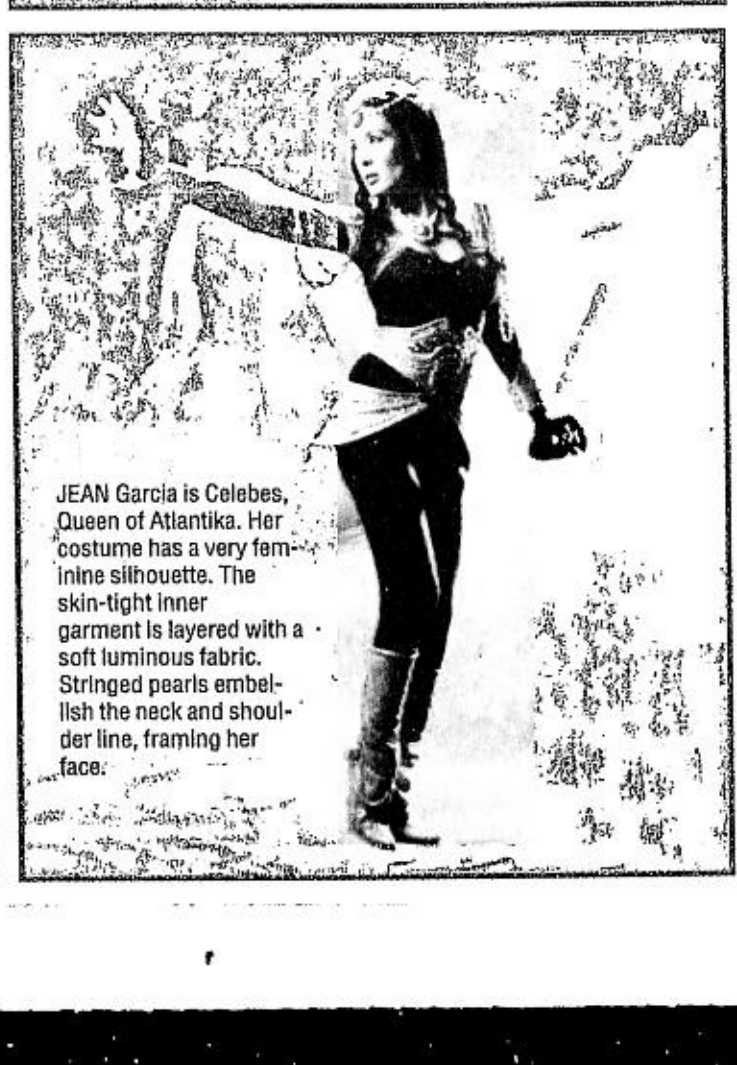
The cast is comprised of young stars Dingdong Dantes, Iza Calzado, Paolo Contis, Katrina Halili, Isabel Oli, and Valerie Concepcion. Add to this a powerhouse support cast—Celia Rodriguez, Jean Garcia, Cherry Pie Picache, Gardo Versoza, Ariel Rivera, Pen Medina, Ronnie Lazaro and Rudy Fernandez in a "very special" role.

Noel Flores and Bill Gustilo designed these elaborate outfits for "Atlantika," GMA 7's "grandest and biggest production to date," according to network execs.

PAOLO Contis is Piranus, Aquano's nemesis. His armor, while similar in design to Aquano's, borrows from the tiger shark and combined with red, giving him a menacing look. His royal costume, also similar to Aquano's in form, has a sharper fin detail.



DINGDONG Dantes is Aquano, a Senturyon with royal blood. He wears a black, gray, pearl white armor with a touch of orange, inspired by a great white shark.



JEAN Garcia is Celebes, Queen of Atlantika. Her costume has a very feminine silhouette. The skin-tight inner garment is layered with a soft luminous fabric. Stringed pearls embellish the neck and shoulder line, framing her face.

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